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A young windsurfer competes at the Aruba Hi-Winds festival, an annual tradition on Aruba that combines Windsurfing, Kite Surfing, music, and a lot of fun in the sun!  
(Photo courtesy of Aruba Hi-Winds)

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## Iran to US: Nuke deal could result in joint cooperation

**GEORGE JAHN**  
**MATTHEW LEE**  
**Associated Press**

**VIENNA (AP)** — In a message to Washington, Iran's foreign minister on Friday called for an end to "coercion and pressure" at the nuclear talks, suggesting

comments were clearly directed at the Americans, who have been the primary drivers of the crippling economic sanctions imposed on his country over its nuclear program. Any deal would result in an end to the sanctions.

activities, Zarif called for an end to "unjust economic sanctions" and for the West to join Iran in common cause against "the growing menace of violent extremism and outright barbarism." "The menace we're fac-

gotiations. In comments echoed by Zarif ahead of their renewed meeting on Friday evening, Kerry said the talks "are making progress." But he also spoke of "some tough issues," telling reporters, "We have a lot of work to

Yukiya Amano, head of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, said his meetings with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani resulted in a "better understanding on some ways forward," but that "more work will be needed." The formulation of his statement was similar to previous ones issued by the IAEA, which has struggled for nearly a decade to resolve its concerns.

Amano's trip Thursday to Tehran was significant because it represented his last chance to secure access and cooperation before the July 7 target date. Rouhani also provided no hint of substantial progress. Iran has previously acknowledged some activities like experiments with detonators, but says those activities had no connection to exploding a nuclear device and were instead developed for industrial purposes.

Repeating the standard Iranian line, Rouhani said after meeting Amano that the agency now understands the "pointless allegations" are "baseless."

The issue was put on the IAEA front burner four years ago when the agency published an annex of 12 alleged activities it said pointed to nuclear weapons research and development by Iran.

A U.S. intelligence assessment published in 2007 raised similar allegations, but said the work ended early last decade. Iran says the suspicions are based on doctored intelligence from Israel, the United States and other adversaries.



**A security person asks reporters to leave a room where U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, second from right, at a hotel in Vienna, Austria.** (Carlos Barria /Pool via AP)

a deal acceptable to his country will open the door to cooperation on fighting the upsurge of Middle East extremism threatening both nations' interests. Mohammad Javad Zarif did not mention the United States by name in his video message. But with the Iran six-power talks having devolved essentially into bilateral U.S.-Iran negotiations over the past year, his

But negotiations remain bogged down ahead of the extended July 7 target date for an agreement. The West fears Iran could develop its nuclear program to make weapons while Iran insists it is only meant to generate power and for other peaceful uses. Suggesting that Islamic extremism is a far greater threat to the world than his country's atomic

ing — and I say we, because no one is spared — is embodied by the hooded men who are ravaging the cradle of civilization," Zarif said. He called for realignment from Iran's nuclear activities, saying it was time to "open new horizons to address important, common challenges." Zarif and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry have taken the lead in the ne-

do." The Obama administration says that at least part of the sanctions relief for Iran under any pact will depend on Iran's full cooperation with the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency to probe allegations that Tehran worked secretly on atomic weapons. But hopes of progress any time soon on that issue dimmed Friday.





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## Military recruits still not using American-made sneakers

**PHILIP MARCELO**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — New Balance thinks the U.S. military is dragging its feet.

Last April, the Department of Defense announced military recruits would start using athletic shoes 100 percent made and manufactured in America, in recognition of a law Congress passed in 1941 requiring the department give preference to American-made goods. Over a year after the announcement, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines have still not purchased a single sneaker that meets the exacting standards of the 1941 law, known as the Berry Amendment. Matthew LeBretton, New Balance's vice president of public affairs, is convinced the delays are deliberate "payback" for companies like New Balance that have been vocally lobbying for the change for years.

"We've pushed and pushed to the point where we're at now, and we're still encountering tremendous resistance," he said. "They're not used to being pushed that way and I think that's engendered this animosity."

Mark Wright, a spokesman for the Department of Defense, said the department is simply continuing to test Berry-compliant sneakers. "We've moved right along since the new policy went into effect last year," he said. "I don't think this is being slow-rolled at all. We're trying to respond to the needs of our forces."

To date, one variant of Boston-based New Balance's proposed 950v2 sneaker has passed the military's testing, after a previous version failed last year. Two other styles of the same shoe — covering the different foot and gait types that the military requires shoe companies offer — are still being tested.

No other shoe brand appears to be going through the testing; Saucony, another Massachusetts-based footwear company, said it's developing a sneaker that eventually could be considered for military use. Matthew Priest, president of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, doesn't believe there's anything nefarious going on, despite New Balance's concerns. "The military is a bureaucracy like any other agency in the

federal government," he said, stressing that his association is remaining "neutral" in the fight because some of its members benefit from the policy change while others don't. "Things just take time." Others see the delays as concerning. Juanita Duggan, president and CEO for the American Apparel and Footwear Association, said in a recent letter to Defense Secretary Ashton Carter that the "sluggish and drawn-out process" is preventing domestic shoemakers from



**A box for a pair of New Balance's proposed 950v2 sneakers that has passed military testing, is seen at one of their manufacturing facilities in Boston. New Balance is pressing the Pentagon to buy American-made footwear for the troops instead of sneakers from rival Nike that are made in China.**

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

hiring and retaining U.S. workers for their factories. U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, a Massachusetts Democrat whose district includes one of New Balance's five American factories, says the Defense Department needs to step up. "There have been signs of movement in the approval process, but it is time for (the department) to make more significant progress and reconcile what they perceive as challenges to moving forward," she said. New Balance and Saucony suggest part of the problem lies in an inefficient testing regimen.

Wright said the process involves an inquiry to assure that all shoe components are sourced, made and assembled in the U.S., followed by a "wear test" that lasts roughly 90 days in which soldiers put them through the paces and then fill out a report on how

they felt.

"We know it won't change overnight," said David Costello, a spokesman for Wolverine Worldwide, Saucony's parent company. "The wheels of government tend to move slowly."

Frank Kendall, an Under Secretary of Defense, said in a March letter to Tsongas that the tests are being done one shoe type at a time because of a limited number of testers. He expects evaluations of New Balance's three shoe variants to be done by September. LeBretton said the testing is the most protracted the company, which is already the sole provider of sneakers for the Navy, has ever been involved in. The U.S. Coast Guard, he notes, has already moved to comply with the Berry Amendment even though it doesn't fall under the Pentagon's revised policy. The Coast Guard, which is overseen by the Department of Homeland Security, recently tapped New Balance, which it had a previous contract with, to provide thousands of American-made sneakers for its recruits. "It's mind-boggling," LeBretton said. "It certainly highlights that there is this institutional slowdown" at the Pentagon.

Wright, of the Department of Defense, stresses the military is committed to honoring the "spirit" of the Berry Amendment even as it maintains sneakers are technically not part of a soldier's officially issued uniform and shouldn't be subject to the rule. □



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## Connecticut town's Boom Box Parade celebrates its 30th year



In this July 4, 2014 photo, members of the Connecticut Renaissance Faire in Norwich entertain the wet spectators at the WILL Boom Box Parade in Willimantic, Conn. Willimantic's annual Independence Day parade once again will include the traditional Little League teams, floats sponsored by local businesses, fire trucks, and politicians. But, for the 30th consecutive year, there will be no marching bands. (Daniel Owen/The Hartford Courant via AP)

**PAT EATON-ROBB**  
**Associated Press**  
**WILLIMANTIC, Conn. (AP)**  
— The town's annual Independence Day parade

once again will include the traditional Little League teams, floats sponsored by local businesses, fire trucks and politicians. But, for the

30th consecutive year, there will be no marching bands. In what has become an offbeat tradition, the par-

ticipants and the spectators will instead be carrying radios tuned to the same local station, which will provide traditional marching music.

More than 5,000 people are expected to attend the town's annual Boom Box Parade, which kicks off at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"I didn't think the idea would work," said Wayne Norman, the WILL-AM radio personality who has served as grand marshal for all 30 parades. "I didn't think people would get the concept. Boy was I wrong."

The parade dates to 1986, when the town couldn't find an available marching band for its Memorial Day parade. Organizer Kathy Clark approached the radio station for help. Station officials said it was too late to organize and publicize for that holiday, but they began planning with Clark for July Fourth, and the tradition was born.

Norman said the staging area was empty two hours before the parade but by the time it was ready to start more than 2,000 people were there, all carrying boom boxes.

Norman said there were some evolutionary pains as the portable radios, ubiquitous in the 1980s, went the way of the cassette tape and were replaced by iPods and other portable electronic devices.

He said any radio or device with a speaker and a way to access the radio station is welcome.

"We ask people to please not wear headphones," he said. "We don't outlaw them, but it kind of defeats the purpose."

The parade, he said, celebrates independence in all its connotations. There is no registration to march. Anyone can participate, and people are free to bring signs, promote causes, even advertise for their businesses. □



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## Eager eaters weigh-in ahead of NYC July 4 hot dog contest



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams watches Joey Chestnut, left, and Matt Stonie, right, during a news conference to promote the upcoming Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot-Dog Eating Contest Friday, July 3, 2015, at Brooklyn Borough Hall in New York.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Four avid eaters have hit the scales ahead of the annual July Fourth hot dog eating contest at Coney Island's Nathan's Famous. Reigning champion Joey Chestnut joined past winners at the weigh-in Friday ahead of the 99-year-old

Independence Day boardwalk tradition. The dogs will be served Saturday morning. Chestnut tipped the scales at a hearty 230 pounds while Michelle Lesco ranked the lightest competitor at 112 pounds. New Zealand native Nela Zisser says she can out-eat her male counterparts. She previously won a pizza eat-

ing contest. The event also featured a ceremonial stare down between the competitors. Repeat runner-up Tim Janus says he got into competitive eating to face off at Nathan's. He conceded Chestnut would be tough to beat but vowed to do his best. Chestnut broke a world record in 2013 when he

scooped down 69 soggy dogs in 10 minutes. As an eight-year champion, he holds the Mustard Yellow International Belt after eating 61 hot dogs at last year's contest. This year, he'll face off against former champ Takeru Kobayashi. More than 30,000 people are expected to pack Coney Island for the annual feeding frenzy. □

## AP: Dalai Lama celebrates 80th birthday with California summit

**IRVINE, California (AP)** — It won't be a small, private affair when the Dalai Lama celebrates his 80th birthday this weekend in southern California. Hundreds of well-wishers are expected at a three-day Global Compassion Summit to mark the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's big day, with events Sunday through Tuesday at Anaheim's Honda Center and the University of California, Irvine. The Dalai Lama himself plans to deliver talks all three days on global compassion, creativity and the arts, youth leadership and climate change. His actual birthday is on Monday. Plans for the festivities include an 8-foot (2.4-meter)-tall birthday cake com-

plete with maroon-and-gold frosting — the colors of the Dalai Lama's Tibetan robes. Volunteer Colleen Johnson and her team at the Art Institute of California are using a Styrofoam base covered in 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of fondant and more than 400 delicate gum paste flowers. A compartment in the side will hold an edible cake: lemon-vanilla chiffon with strawberry filling. "I hope to God everything works," Johnson said Friday. Johnson said she was honored to create the presentation, especially because the religious leader will be speaking on "the transformative power for creativity and art." □



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## Job market's new normal: Smaller workforce, sluggish pay

**C. S. RUGABER**

**J. BOAK**

**AP Economics Writers**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Even after another month of strong hiring in June and a sinking unemployment rate, the U.S. job market just isn't what it used to be.

Pay is sluggish. Many part-timers can't find full-time work. And a diminished share of Americans either have a job or are looking for one.

Yet in the face of global and demographic shifts, this may be what a nearly healthy U.S. job market now looks like.

An aging population is sending an outsize proportion of Americans into retirement. Many younger adults, bruised by the Great Recession, are postponing work to remain in school to try to become more marketable. Global competition and the increasing automation of many jobs are holding down pay.

Many economists think these trends will persist for years despite steady job growth. It helps explain why the Federal Reserve is widely expected to start raising interest rates from record lows later this year even though many job measures remain far below their pre-recession peaks.

"The Fed may recognize that this is a new labor-market normal, and it will begin to normalize monetary policy," said Patrick O'Keefe, an economist at accounting and consulting firm CohnReznick.

Thursday's monthly jobs report from the government showed that employers added a solid 223,000 jobs in June and that the unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent from 5.5 percent in May. Even so, the generally improving job market still

bears traits that have long been regarded as weaknesses. Among them:

— A shrunken labor force. The unemployment rate didn't fall in June because more people were hired. The rate fell solely because

(workforce) participation rate move anywhere near where it was in 2007," O'Keefe says.

This marks a striking reversal. The share of Americans in the workforce had been steadily climbing through

ning to resemble retirement havens such as Florida. Just 59.3 percent of Floridians are in the workforce.

— Younger workers are starting their careers later. Employers are demanding college degrees and even

— The number of part-timers who would prefer full-time work remains high.

About 6.5 million workers are working part time but want full-time jobs, up from 4.6 million before the recession began. This is partly a reflection of tepid economic growth. But economists also point to long-term factors: Industries such as hotels and restaurants that hire many part-timers are driving an increasing share of job growth, researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco have found.

As more young adults put off working, some employers are turning to older workers to fill part-time jobs. Older workers are more likely to want full-time work, raising the level of so-called involuntary part-time employment.

Many economists also point to the Obama administration's health care reforms for increasing part-time employment. The law requires companies with more than 100 employees to provide health insurance to those who work more than 30 hours.

Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase, says this could account for as much as one-third of the increase in part-time jobs.

— Weak pay growth. The average hourly U.S. wage was flat in June at \$24.95 and has risen just 2 percent over the past year. The stagnant June figure dispelled hopes that strong job growth in May heralded a trend of steadily rising incomes.

In theory, steady hiring is supposed to reduce the number of qualified workers who are still seeking jobs. And a tight supply of workers tends to force wages up. □



**Mark Flannigan makes a batch of popcorn at the Popcorn Wagon in Pittsfield, Mass. The Popcorn Wagon, owned by Berkshire Bank and operated by Goodwill's Business 101 program, is used to teach participants the ins-and-outs of business enterprises. Even with steady hiring and a falling unemployment rate, the U.S. job market is not what it used to be.**

**(Ben Garver/The Berkshire Eagle via AP)**

the number of people who had become dispirited and stopped looking for work far exceeded the number who found jobs.

The percentage of Americans in the workforce — defined as those who either have a job or are actively seeking one — dropped to 62.6 percent, a 38-year low, from 62.9 percent. (The figure was 66 percent when the recession began in 2007.) Fewer job holders typically mean weaker growth for the economy. The growth of the labor force slowed to just 0.3 percent in 2014, compared with 1.1 percent in 2007.

"It is highly unlikely that we are going to see our

early 2000, and a big reason was that more women began working. But that influx plateaued in the late 1990s and has drifted downward since.

— The retirement of the vast baby boom generation. The aging population is restraining the growth of the workforce. The pace of retirements accelerated in 2008, when the oldest boomers turned 62, when workers can start claiming some Social Security benefits. Economists estimate that retirements account for about half the decline in the share of Americans in the workforce since 2000. From that perspective, the nation as a whole is begin-

postgraduate degrees for a higher proportion of jobs. Mindful of this trend, teens and young people in their 20's are still reading textbooks when previous generations were punching time clocks.

The recession "basically told everybody that they need an education to get better jobs," says John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo. "So how would young people respond? They stayed in school." Fewer than 39 percent of 18- and 19-year-olds are employed, down from 56 percent in 2000. For people ages 20 to 24, the proportion has fallen to 64 percent from 72 percent.





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## Clinton says she takes a 'backseat to no one' among liberals

KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

HANOVER, New Hampshire

(AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday she takes a "backseat to no one" on championing liberal causes, presenting herself as a standard-bearer for Democrats as 2016 primary challenger Bernie Sanders generates large, energetic crowds.

Clinton addressed 850 people at an outdoor amphitheater at Dartmouth College, a last-minute venue change made to accommodate a larger audience. Days earlier, Sanders spoke before about 10,000 people in Madison, Wisconsin. The former secretary of state made no mention of Sanders but warned that Republicans would unravel President Barack Obama's policies if they recaptured the White House, including the repeal of his signature health care overhaul.

"I take a backseat to no one when you look at my record of standing up and fighting for progressive values," Clinton said on a sun-dappled kickoff to the Fourth of July weekend in Hanover, New Hampshire, across the Connecticut River from Sanders' home state of Vermont.

The Democratic presidential front-runner portrayed herself as a candidate of continuity to Obama and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, praising the Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding health care subsidies under the overhaul. She said if the nation elected a Republican president, "they will repeal the Affordable Care Act. That is as certain as I can say."

She said Obama and her husband had both inher-

ited a series of economic headaches when they entered office and urged voters to elect another Democrat "to continue the policies that actually work for the vast majority of Americans."

Clinton said at the end of her husband's two terms, the economy had generated 22 million jobs, a balanced budget and "a surplus that would have paid off our national debt if it had not been rudely interrupted by the next administration."

The former New York senator's team has been wary of likening her to the equivalent of Obama's third term but her acclaim for the president's policies highlighted a string of recent victories by the White House in its defense of the health care law, the Supreme Court's ruling allowing gay marriage and steady economic numbers.

In a rare discussion of foreign policy, Clinton spoke supportively of Obama's efforts to reach an agreement with Iran to curb the country's nuclear program, talks that she helped set in motion as secretary of state. Previewing next week's deadline for negotiations, Clinton said she hoped the U.S. would "get a deal that puts a lid on Iran's nuclear weapons program" but said it was "too soon" to know if that was possible.

Seeking the Democratic nomination, Clinton's focus has been on economic issues, the driving force behind Sanders' recent rise in polls. The senator describes himself as a democratic socialist and has won elections in Vermont as an independent. □



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks during a campaign event, Friday, July 3, 2015, in Hanover, N.H.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

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# Greek campaigns, neck and neck, reach dramatic finale

**D. GATOPOULOS**  
**M. HADJICOSTIS**  
**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — On a night filled with emotion and packed city squares, naysaying Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his "yes" vote rivals made their final pitches Friday at bailout referendum rallies, as polls showed the two sides in a dead heat. More than 40,000 people gathered at the two rallies, half a mile (800 meters) apart, before Sunday's vote on whether to accept creditors' proposals for more austerity in exchange for rescue loans, or reject the deal as a show of defiance against years of harsh economic austerity.

"This is not a protest. It is a celebration to overcome fear and blackmail," Tsipras told a crowd of 25,000 in front of parliament, who were chanting oxi, oxi—"no, no."

Meanwhile, police said about 17,000 people gathered outside the nearby Panathenian stadium for the "yes" rally, waving Greek and European



**Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivers a speech during a rally organized by supporters of the no vote in Athens, Friday, July 3, 2015. A new opinion poll shows a dead heat in Greece's referendum campaign with just two days to go before Sunday's vote on whether Greeks should accept more austerity in return for bailout loans. The sign on the lectern reads, "We are writing history, NO."**

Union flags and chanting "Greece, Europe, Democracy."

Rallies for both campaigns were also held in 10 other Greek cities Friday.

Tsipras is gambling the future of his five-month-old left wing government on Sunday's snap poll — in-

sisting a "no" vote will strengthen his hand to negotiate a third bailout with better terms.

But the high-stakes standoff with lenders this week saw Greece default on debts, close banks to avoid their collapse, and lose access to billions of euros as an ex-

isting bailout deal expired. At the "no" rally, Athens resident Maria Antiniou held a handmade sign, reading "oxi."

"We have to strengthen Tsipras. It's not his fault we are bankrupt," she said.

"He doesn't have the mandate to take tougher measures and now we are giving that to him. It's not true this is a vote on the

euro. It's a vote to change course and stay in the euro, and Tsipras is our best hope," she said.

That is a message the "yes" voters refuse believe.

Evgenia Bouzala, a Greek born in Germany, said she was considering shutting down her olive oil export business because of the financial turmoil.

"I don't think we can keep going. Look at what happened in the last three days. Imagine if that lasts another six months," she said.

"A 'yes' vote would bring a caretaker government and that would probably be better ... We have to start over."

The drama remained high in the final hours of campaigning. The country's top court stayed in session till the late afternoon before rejecting a petition to declare the referendum illegal, while party leaders, personalities, and church elders weighed in with impassioned pleas to vote "no" or "yes" on the airwaves and social media. In a rare public declaration, 16 former armed forces leaders wrote an appeal to citizens to show "calm and national unity."□

## New Spain law sets fines for disseminating police images

**ALAN CLENDENNING**  
**Associated Press**

**MADRID (AP)** — Three years ago, just after anti-austerity activists demonstrated outside Madrid's main train station, freelance cameraman Juan Ramon Robles captured riveting video of riot police inside the station beating people who said they had nothing to do with the protests.

Robles won prizes for the footage of a bloodied young man and stunned commuter train passengers, and the images from the Atocha station went viral in Spain and around the world.

Today, he fears, such images might never be seen because of a new public security law that went into

effect this week.

A clause in the wide-ranging legislation that critics have dubbed the "gag law" provides for fines of up to 30,000 euros (\$33,000) for "unauthorized use" of images of working police that could identify them, endanger their security or hinder them from doing their jobs.

It also specifies that Spaniards' right to information must be respected. But media lawyers and freedom-of-expression advocates warn the clause is vaguely written, and worry that police could use it to add on charges that come with jail time or to destroy images taken by mainstream journalists, citizen journalists, activists and regular people.□



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## Egypt marks 2nd anniversary of Islamist ouster with mourning

BRIAN ROHAN

DAN PERRY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Two years

to the day after the army overthrew Egypt's Islamist president, the sounds coming from the mosque at Cairo's Tahrir Square were sadly telling. At the focal point of Egypt's upheavals, where authorities had hoped to stage celebrations, there was instead a prayer for the week's dead, including soldiers cut down by militants in Sinai and the country's chief prosecutor, assassinated by car bomb in the capital. A sense of foreboding fills the air, with officials and media speaking of a state of war and urging national unity. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has promised swift justice, which critics fear will mean a further step away from democracy. The Muslim Brotherhood, banned but unbowed, has upped the ante by calling for revolt against his rule. There is fear of even worse attacks of the kind that have become sadly familiar around the region.

It all presents a major challenge for el-Sissi, who as army chief led the takeover against Morsi two years ago, when millions filled the streets outraged over Muslim Brotherhood misrule. He was later elected president, and the deal he has offered Egyptians — a curtailment of freedoms in exchange for stability and security — was one many seemed eagerly willing to embrace after several years of upheaval, in which the wider region has gone up in flames. The first part of that equation has been carried out: the once-ruling Muslim Brotherhood has been largely crushed, thousands of its members and scores



People carry the coffin for 1st Lt. Mohammed Ashraf, killed in Wednesday's attack by Islamic militants in the Sinai, during the funeral procession in Ashmoun, north of Cairo, Egypt. When Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi led the army's overthrow of Egypt's Islamist president two years ago, he promised to usher in new stability for the country. Instead, now President el-Sissi is facing an even tougher challenge: An Islamic militant insurgency that unleashed its worst violence yet the past week.

of leaders in jail and hundreds — including Morsi — handed the death penalty; public protests are restricted, as is political activity; the media has been cowed amid an atmosphere that seems to equate criticism with disloyalty; and even many liberal activists are in jail. The result has been quieter streets, without protests that often turned to riots the past three years, and

violence against Christians and Shiites has lessened, though not stopped. But stability, which for a time seemed attainable, seems to be in danger of unraveling. Militants affiliated with the regional Islamic State group have turned the northern part of the Sinai peninsula into a war zone, this week staging a brazen multi-pronged attack on army positions; last month a key tourist site at

(AP Photo/Ashour Abosalm)

Luxor was attacked; on Tuesday chief prosecutor Hisham Barakat was assassinated while leaving his Cairo home for work. Islamic radicals have claimed responsibility for the attacks. Authorities generally blame the Muslim Brotherhood itself, claiming its leaders issue orders from behind bars. Some believe the group's denials while others don't, and proof is scarce.

Michael Hanna, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Century Foundation, sees an "escalatory cycle ... deteriorating security is eroding confidence in capacity of the regime but at the same time also reinforcing hard-line trends in Egyptian society with respect of how to deal with these security threats."

After the killing of Barakat, an angry el-Sissi went on TV to promise more efficient justice. He also suggested that the death penalties against the Islamist leaders would — contrary to expectations — actually be carried out.

Action will be taken within days "to enable us to execute the law, and bring justice as soon as possible," he said. In a thinly veiled reference to jailed members of the Brotherhood, el-Sissi blamed the violence on those "issuing orders from behind bars," and warned: "If there is a death sentence, it will be carried out."

"We will stand in the face of the whole world, and fight the whole world," el-Sissi said. El-Sissi was alluding to the widespread global criticism of his heavy-handed rule — charges certainly also echoed by domestic opponents, not all of them Islamists. □

## Palestinians arrests 100 Hamas members in West Bank

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian Authority forces arrested over 100 Hamas members in the West Bank who were planning on carrying out attacks, a Palestinian official said, in the biggest raid of its kind in years.

Spokesman for Palestinian security, Adnan Dameri said "We will not let Hamas undermine our secu-

rity and draw our counto bloodshed, we will not let Hamas carry out attacks in the West Bank."

It was the biggest mass arrest in one night since 2007 when Palestinians split after the Islamic militant group Hamas violently ousted forces loyal to President Mahmoud Abbas from Gaza, leaving him governing just parts of the West

Bank. Hamas spokesman Husam Badran said in a statement the arrests were meant to stop the recent spate of deadly Palestinian attacks against Israelis. He accused Palestinian security forces of working for Israel and said the militant group holds Abbas personally responsible. Hamas will continue attacks against Israelis in the West Bank,

he said. There has been a surge in deadly Palestinian attacks against Israelis recently. Two Israelis were killed in separate West Bank shootings that also injured several people, and two others wounded in stabbing attacks.

Hamas in Gaza published names of 108 of its members who had been arrested. □



# IS says it destroyed archaeological pieces from Palmyra

**BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Islamic State group militants have destroyed six archaeological pieces from the historic town of Palmyra that were confiscated from a smuggler, the group said. An IS statement, released late Thursday, said the six busts were found when the smuggler was stopped at a checkpoint. The issue was referred to an Islamic court in the IS-held northern Syrian town of Manbij, which ordered that they be destroyed and the man be whipped. Photographs released by the group show IS militants destroying the busts with large hammers. Another photo shows the smuggler being whipped. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Friday it was unclear if the busts were authentic or if the militants destroyed fake busts as a cover for the IS group's own antiquities smuggling. While there is no firm evidence of the amount of money being made by the Islamic State group from

looting antiquities, satellite photos and anecdotal evidence confirm widespread plundering of archaeological sites in areas under IS control. Palmyra's UNESCO world heritage site is famous for its 2,000-year-old Roman colonnades, other ruins and priceless artifacts. Before Syria's conflict began in 2011, tens of thousands of tourists visited the remote desert outpost, a cherished landmark referred to by Syrians as the "Bride of the Desert." In March, IS members in Iraq razed 3,000-year old Nimrod and bulldozed 2,000-year old Hatra — both UNESCO world heritage sites. The Sunni extremists, who have imposed a violent interpretation of Islamic law, or Shariah, in the territories they control in Syria and Iraq, believe ancient relics promote idolatry. IS militants also recently destroyed a lion statue dating back to the 2nd century in Palmyra, said Maamoun Abdulkarim, the head of the Syrian government's Antiquities and Museums Department.



**A militant smashes items that the group claims are smuggled archaeological pieces from the historic central town of Palmyra, Syria. An IS statement says the busts were found when the smuggler was stopped at a checkpoint and was later referred to an Islamic which ordered that they be destroyed and the man be whipped.**

(militant website via AP)

He said the statue, discovered in 1977, had stood at the gate of the town's museum, and had been placed inside a metal box to protect it from damage. In Paris, the U.N. cultural agency's chief, Irina Bokova,

condemned on Friday the latest destruction of Palmyra's cultural heritage, saying the actions "reflect the brutality and ignorance of extremist groups and their disregard of local communities and of the

Syrian people." "The destruction of funerary busts of Palmyra in a public square, in front of crowds and children asked to witness the looting of their heritage is especially perverse," Bokova added.

## Syria:

## Militants, rebels launch push for Aleppo

**BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Islamic militants and rebels in Syria launched fresh attacks on government-held neighborhoods in Aleppo on Friday, setting off some of the heaviest fighting in months in the contested northern city, activists and state media said. The fighting is part of a new coordinated offensive in Aleppo by a newly-formed coalition between al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, and the ultra-conservative Ahrar al-Sham group, and other rebels. The groups said they seek to "liberate" Aleppo under their coalition called Ansar al-Sharia. A former industrial and commercial hub, Aleppo has been carved up between government and rebel-held neighborhoods since 2012. With the city devastated by three years of fighting, many of its residents have long fled.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attacks started early Thursday with concentrated rocket attacks targeting the government-held Zahra neighborhood in western Aleppo, where some of the Syrian army's key military installations are located. The government struck back with a series of airstrikes and shelling that killed at least 35 militants, according to the Observatory. There was no casualty figure for government troops. State TV said troops repelled the attacks and aired a live report from the city to show the situation was under control. The formation of Ansar al-Sharia and its push in Aleppo comes amid a string of battlefield losses for President Bashar Assad's overstretched forces in the north and south. Near the capital, Damas-

cus, a bomb exploded inside a mosque in the opposition-held Tal area on Friday, killing a Sunni Muslim cleric, Syria's state TV reported. The TV said the bomb was placed under the pulpit, or minbar, at the Grand Mosque and went off shortly after the midday prayers ended. The report said Sheikh Suleiman Afandi was instantly killed. It was not immediately clear who was behind the killing. Tal has witnessed reconciliation between the government and rebels but is mostly opposition-controlled. Bombings targeting mosques have not been uncommon during Syria's civil war. In 2013, Sunni Muslim preacher Sheikh Mohammad Said Ramadan al-Buti — an outspoken supporter of President Bashar Assad — was killed along with at least 41 others when a suicide bomber struck a Damascus mosque.



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## Greek villagers' secret weapon: Grow your own food



Ilias Mathes works at his garden in the village of Karitaina about 131 miles southwest of Athens. Its distinctive Byzantine churches and stone-wrought homes, and the magnificent view of the mountains, rivers and valleys, won it a place on the back of the 5,000 drachma bill before the Greek currency was phased out when the euro was introduced in 2002, and now many people are returning to the old times of living off the land and away from the concerns of euro currency controls.

(AP Photo/Spyros Tsakiris)

GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

KARITAINA, Greece (AP)

— Ilias Mathes has protection against bank closures, capital controls and the slashing of his pension: 10 goats, some hens and a vegetable patch.

If Greece's financial crisis deepens, as many believe it must, he can feed his children and grandchildren with the bounty of the land in this proud village high in the mountains of the Arcadia Peloponnese.

"I have my lettuce, my onions, I have my hens, my birds, I will manage," he said, even though he can no longer access his full pension payment because of government controls imposed six days ago. "We will manage for a period of time, I don't know, two months, maybe three months, because I also want to give to our relatives. If they are suffering, I cannot leave them like this, isn't that so?"

The production of food and milk gives villagers in many parts of Greece a

small measure of confidence — and a valuable buffer. But that doesn't mean the financial cut-off doesn't cause headaches. Some in Karitaina have to pay 40 euros in taxi fares to get to and from the nearest banks just to withdraw 60 euros, the maximum daily amount for those with bank cards.

The bus to Megalopoli, the town with the bank, was shut down — a victim of austerity. Many of those who used to drive are now too unwell to do so. The majority who live here are retirees, shrouding the town in eerie quiet broken only by the constant birdsong and the sporadic shouting of people arguing about the financial crisis at a vine-shaded café in the town square.

Despite the collective sense that a catastrophe of some type stares Greece in the face, the country's strong tradition of hospitality remains intact. Mathes won't let a visitor leave without a bundle of fresh vegetables and some "tra-

chanas" and "chilopites," types of local pasta his family makes by hand.

Many believe the ability to help one another with food gives Karitaina, with about 30 year-round residents and 100 in the long, drowsy summer, a better chance of surviving than city dwellers coping with the same anxieties. Rural Greek communities have age-old survival tactics that allow them to weather storms such as World War II deprivation and natural disasters. They will need to draw on them deeply, as Greece's current problems

are unlikely to go away soon — whatever the outcome of the referendum Sunday on whether to accept the latest bailout proposals, which call for more austerity cuts to already razor-thin public services.

"In the village it's easier to live," said Ionnis Psilas, who is saddled with debts he says he can never repay after the failure of his car import business. "You can get products from neighbors and give them some. In Athens you are strangers. But the crisis has affected the village very much. We are trying but there

is no money here. I lived very well and now I have nothing." He said he would like to vote "200 times no" against the proposed bailout deal, which would impose still more austerity measures on a country that has endured five years of dire cutbacks. He admires Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras for defying European leaders and the International Monetary Fund by urging citizens to reject the deal, a course that could cause Greece to tumble out of the eurozone.

Continued on Page 27



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## Ban Ki-moon offers help in Guyana-Venezuela dispute

**CAROL WILLIAMS**  
**Associated Press**

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP)** — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday offered assistance to resolve an escalating border dispute between Guyana and Venezuela. Speaking at a press conference ahead of a summit of the 15-member Caribbean Community, Ban said his chief of staff will meet with Venezuela's foreign minister and might dispatch a mission to both countries if there is interest. Guyana's government said last month that it planned to

formally ask the U.N. to intervene. Venezuela has long-claimed about two-thirds of Guyana and has become more insistent about a large marine area where Exxon Mobil Corp. says it made a significant oil discovery. Caricom invited Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to the summit in Barbados, but he did not attend. Ban also urged leaders of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to maintain a dialogue at a time when the Dominican Republic is cracking down on migrants

from neighboring Haiti. "I strongly believe it is critical for them to engage in a frank and constructive dialogue," he said. The Dominican Republic recently announced it would start deporting non-citizens who did not enroll in an immigration registration program. The government has said some 31,000 people have left voluntarily. Following Ban's comments, Haitian president Michel Martelly said he was concerned about the situation. "We've been trying to get a protocol with the Dominican Republic so we can

agree on who's coming, when they're coming, how they're coming, how many are coming," he said. Ban also said the U.N. will provide Haiti with technical support for upcoming elections. Ban also presented details of a U.N. report released last month that calls for increasing HIV prevention efforts and stepping up the fight against AIDS. He noted that a quarter of a million people in the region live with HIV, and that punishing laws and stigma worsen the epidemic. Much of the Caribbean is

hostile to gay rights, and islands including Jamaica and St. Lucia have laws that prohibit consensual sex between men. The laws are rarely applied, but gays still face discrimination and in some cases, violence. "Homophobia threatens both human rights and public health," Ban said. "We cannot tolerate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, nor on the basis of gender identity. We must also defend the human rights of sex workers and of people who inject drugs." □

## UN leader voices concern about Dominican crackdown

**CAROL WILLIAMS**  
**Associated Press**

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP)** — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Caribbean leaders this week that he shares concerns about a crackdown on migrants in the Dominican Republic, most of whom are from Haiti or of Haitian descent. Ban spoke to open a meeting of leaders from the nations of the 15-member Caribbean Community, of which Haiti is a member. Its neighbor, the Dominican Republic, is not and does not have a representative at the gathering. Ban described the Dominican government's recent decision to start deporting non-citizens who did not submit applications to es-



**Migrants, mostly Haitians, show officers their documents as they wait their turn to register for legal residency at the Interior Ministry in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. .N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Caribbean leaders this week that he shares concerns about a crackdown on migrants in the Dominican Republic, most of whom are from Haiti or of Haitian descent.**

(AP Photo/Tatiana Fernandez)

tablish legal residency as a "matter of human rights and human dignity." "I have discussed this with

the president of the Dominican Republic and trust there will be further progress in resolving this mat-

ter," he said on a stage surrounded by Caribbean leaders. Last week, Haitian Prime

Minister Evans Paul warned that the Dominican Republic was creating a humanitarian crisis with its crackdown, noting that 14,000 people, many of them children and young adults, had crossed the border into Haiti in less than a week. The Dominican government has said deportations will be a methodical and lengthy process. Earlier Thursday, Ban pledged to press for more funding to help small island states adapt to climate change and foster sustainable development. He told Caribbean leaders they are on the "climate front lines" and govern nations that are "some of the most vulnerable countries in the world." □

## Haiti president, business leaders open new container port

**EVENS SANON**  
**DAVID McFADDEN**  
**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — Haitian President Michel Martelly, business leaders and civic boosters inaugurated an \$80 million container port this week aimed at giving the hemisphere's poorest country a much bigger role in global shipping. Sitting just outside the capital of Port-au-Prince, Port Lafito is designed to handle the massive ships that will be able to pass through the newly expanded Pana-

ma Canal. Hopes are it will anchor an economic zone that will create 25,000 jobs by 2020. The canal expansion has caused many countries to build or upgrade port infrastructure in hopes of playing a major role in global supply chains. But perhaps nowhere are the stakes higher than in Haiti, where the World Bank says 59 percent of people live on less than \$2.44 a day and an additional 24 percent live on less than half that. "This project will make a significant impact on the na-

tional economy and have a beneficial impact on the more than 10 million people that live here," said Reuven Bigio, CEO of the GB Group conglomerate. GB Group, which is majority-owned by Gilbert Bigio, one of Haiti's wealthiest men, has partnered at the port with Seattle-based SSA Marine, which will oversee operations. The Haitian state bank, International Finance Corp. and Dutch development bank are among institutions that invested in the project. Officials already have

agreements with international shipping companies Evergreen Marine and King Ocean Services to make port calls. An agreement was also signed between Port Lafito and Miami's port to collaborate on cargo traffic. The port, which has two mobile cranes, two top loaders and 16 trucks, is scheduled to see its first ship Sunday. Haiti is located on busy sea lanes between North, Central and South American markets, and independent shipping experts express optimism Port Lafito will be

a boon for Haiti. "This will go a long way at improving the commercial prospects of a country that is plagued with inefficiencies, corruption and rent-seeking behavior," said Jean-Paul Rodrigue, a global transport expert and professor at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. Martelly said Haiti needs "more models of this type of project" as it continues to recover from the 2010 earthquake that devastated much of the capital and surrounding areas. □





## Aruba Hi-Winds 2015 Kicks Off This Weekend!



**FISHERMEN'S HUTS** - The month of July is already here. The 29th edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds will be a great windsurf and kite festival again. All riders and windsurf fans from around the world are welcome to sail races and come enjoy a week full of fun activities and entertainment. Preparations are in full swing and we promise it will be a great spectacle.

The Hi-Winds 2015 will take place from July 4 till 13 at the best windsurf spot of the island: the 'Fishermen's Huts'. The Kite Freestyle event and the Kids Kite semi-long distance races will kick off the event on the first weekend, July 4 and 5.

This year the two organizers, Alex Esser and Tim Determann have been working hard to make the

event unforgettable for everyone, for young and old, for first-time windsurfers and Pro Riders. There will be slalom and long distance races and freestyle competition in both windsurfing and kite. In the category of windsurfing, some big names have been confirmed from Bonaire: Taty Frans, Choco Frans and Kiri Thode. Taty and Kiri are regulars on the PWA World Pro Tour and are top contenders both in Slalom and Free style. A small contingent is also expected from Curaçao, as well as Holland, the US and Argentina, just to name a few of the countries. Half of the competitors are expected from abroad.

The Hi-Winds is known for being an event that offers more than just windsurf and kite competition. This year's entertainment program features DJ's and live bands under the mega tent at the Fisherman's Huts. On Friday, July 10, it will be Jorick Croes, Bambu and Kawura Roots Band. On Saturday, July 11, Dj Joa will precede Earplugs and Roger & the Roosters. On Sunday, July 12, Myron Kelly will kick things off before Primo Bandits and Nutzbeatz will culminate this exiting weekend. These performances will take place after the Amstel Bright Happy Hour, from 5 to 7 in the weekend. Cool FM in the "Cas di Glas" will be 24/7 live on the beach. Watch the Aruba Hi-Winds 2015 trailer at our renewed



website [www.hiwindsaruba.com](http://www.hiwindsaruba.com) and at the Aruba Hi-Winds Facebook page and you will get a good

impression. Like this page and we will keep you informed of all activities. See you all at the beach! □





# Chef Urvin follows his roots

**PALM BEACH** - This month's menu at the Kitchen Table by White celebrates the Asian influences in the Aruban and Caribbean Kitchen. For centuries the Asian people have been coming to the Caribbean in search of opportunities, and with them, they brought their own culinary taste and customs.

Over time the Asian cuisine has mixed and blended with local flavors and ingredients, resulting in a Caribbean-Asian cuisine that is unique for the region. Chef Urvin, progeny of Asian immigrants himself, is pleased to present you his very own interpretation with this Asian inspired menu.

The culinary journey will cover various Asian countries, but with Caribbean influences. With a significant Asian population in Aruba, most of the ingredients are actually available here.

One of the 'stops' is Korea, with Urvin's version of Kimchi, a fish and vegetable dish. From China, the Guava Glazed Duck and from India, Roti. Prepare to be



amazed by the combinations of flavors, concentrated and combined with surprising results.

To cover the global feel of The Kitchen Table, the optional wine pairing plays with your palette with wines from Australia, the USA and Europe.

An evening with the Kitchen Table by White is or-

ganized to guide you on your culinary journey, so whether you're an experienced 'Foodie' or new for this type of food experience, you will enjoy the stories behind the dishes and where Urvin found the inspiration to play with the flavors he's presenting. We look forward to being your 'guide'!

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## A terrific dinner among gossamer wings; Let Papillon Restaurant Take You on Their Wings to the Butterfly Farm

**PALM BEACH** - Elegant Papillon Restaurant is planning a stunning evening at the Butterfly Farm. Surrounded by fluttering gossamer wings, guests will be treated to specialty Hendricks Gin cocktails and an amuse in the garden before being led to their tables for a five-course extravagant dinner with superb wines.

Tables will be set up throughout the Butterfly farm, so lovely, winged creatures will be forming a colorful backdrop to the plates that are served. A kitchen will be set up, so that Papillon's chefs can whip up their delightful treats with all the seasonal specials on location. The Papillon dinner is held on

with the best possible pairing for the wines, which include a Veuve Clicquot 1995 Vintage Rose, Chablis Premier Cru, Super Tuscan and more. As there is space for only forty-five seated guests, pre-registration is necessary. And one of those forty-five will be the lucky winner of a magnum of Veuve Clicquot rosé. Who would not like to win one of those?

A bit of background information: Papillon, the name of the most famous escaped prisoner in the world, is also the French word for butterfly. The concept of hosting a 'Papillon' dinner in the butterfly garden is therefore a stroke of genius.

Five years ago, the evening



July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Guests can expect the best of the best during the extraordinary evening, which is sponsored by the Aruba Trading Company (ATC). The fantastic twinkling lights that make everyone and everything sparkle in this botanical garden are courtesy of Patrick Verburg.

Papillon's chefs and management have come up

was a resounding success; guests still vividly remember the tremendous event.

Please make your reservation early: you can do so via mail, website or in person. You will receive a numbered ticket, which might make you the evening's special winner.

Reservations are preferred: [reservations@papillonaruba.com](mailto:reservations@papillonaruba.com). □



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round and also the facility that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! it will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules.

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# SCARED GREAT



**Serena survives at Wimbledon, will meet Venus next**

Serena Williams of the United States celebrates winning a point against Heather Watson of Britain, during their singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Friday July 3, 2015.

Associated Press  
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# A-Rod, Yanks settle dispute, he gets ball from 3,000th hit

By RONALD BLUM

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Alex Rodriguez and the Yankees settled their dispute over a marketing payment with a deal announced Friday that gives \$3.5 million to charitable groups, saves the team \$5.5 million and gets A-Rod the home run ball from his 3,000th hit.

At the time Rodriguez and the Yankees signed their \$275 million, 10-year contract in December 2007, they reached a separate marketing agreement. It called for \$6 million each for up to five milestone accomplishments in exchange for marketing rights, such as using A-Rod's name and image in selling licensed goods. The first was to be for A-Rod's 660th home run, tying Willie Mays for fourth on the career list. "I'm very happy, not only for what happened here with 3,000, but obviously with the big news of the day, which we all heard



**Zack Hamle, left, presents New York Yankees Alex Rodriguez with the baseball on which Rodriguez got his 3,000th career hit during a news conference, Friday, July 3, 2015, in New York.**

Associated Press

about," Rodriguez said Friday. "It's been a good day.

The club's relationship with Rodriguez deteriorated during 2013, when he was a target of Major League Baseball's Biogenesis drug investigation. That led to A-Rod's suspension for the

entire 2014 season after then-Commissioner Bud Selig concluded he violated the sport's drug agreement and labor contract. Rodriguez sued MLB, the players' union and the Yankees' team physician, then dropped the litigation. When the 39-year-old hit

No. 660 on May 1, New York said it had the discretion not to make the payment and declined to do so, saying his marketing rights did not have any worth. MLB and the players' association stopped the clock on the time to file a grievance as negotiations continued. "This has been quite a year," Rodriguez said. "Never did I think 12 months ago I would be in a position with 660 and 3,000, with two swings of the bat, to be able to influence so many people, kids, that are in need."

Under the deal, the Yankees will split \$1 million among the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa and Pitch In For Baseball.

The team has been a longtime funder of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club of Tampa.

Zach Hamle, the fan

who retrieved Rodriguez's 3,000th hit at Yankee Stadium on June 19, supports Pitch In For Baseball, which says its mission is to assist children around the world through baseball. The charity was to receive \$150,000. Seated next to Rodriguez during a news conference celebrating the deal, Hamle reached into his backpack and pulled out a ziploc bag with the authenticated ball in it. He took the ball out of the baggie and he and A-Rod together held it up for photographers.

Rodriguez said his daughters can fight over who will get to keep the ball in their bedroom.

"Who would've thunk that one swing of the bat, one home run would create so much attention," Rodriguez said. "But more importantly, such a generous donation by the Steinbrenner family to benefit your wonderful organization." □

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## Vegas, Langley share 2nd-round lead at Greenbrier Classic

By JOHN RABY

AP Sports Writer

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP) --

Jhonattan Vegas hasn't had much success since winning his second PGA Tour event as a rookie in 2011. The Greenbrier Classic could give him that needed boost.

Vegas shot a 5-under-par 65 to tie Scott Langley for the lead after the second round Friday. They were at 9-under 131 on the Old White TPC course in West Virginia.

Twenty-three golfers were within three shots of the lead, including seven at 8 under.

Vegas doesn't have a top 10 finish this season, but he's looking to change that. He made five birdies during a bogey-free round Friday, including two of his final three holes.

"I feel like I'm playing great, I just haven't been able to put it all together," the Venezuelan said. "But I'm staying patient and working really hard to make it happen, and it's coming together."

Langley didn't have the same birdie explosion as he enjoyed in the first round, when he shot 62 to take the lead.

Starting his round on the back nine, Langley made back-to-back birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 and shot 69.

"Following up a round of 62 is never super easy," Langley said. "I left a lot of putts within 6 inches of the hole, just right in the heart. I need to be a little more assertive (Saturday) on the greens."

Langley and Vegas had a chance to make noise last week at the Travelers Championship. Langley was four strokes behind



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the sixth tee during the second round of the Greenbrier Classic golf tournament at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Friday, July 3, 2015. Rain caused delays in play.

eventual winner Bubba Watson entering weekend play, while Vegas was six shots back.

Both faded in the final two rounds.

The top four finishers at The Greenbrier not previously eligible for the British Open will earn spots next week at St. Andrews, provided they are among the top 12 and ties.

"That's one of the goals for the week," Vegas said. "So we're going to try to go get it."

Tiger Woods made little progress after a solid first round but avoided missing consecutive cuts for the first time as a pro. Woods shot 69 Friday and was at 5 under, four shots back.

Woods had more trouble reaching fairways on Friday. He found the water to the right on the par-5 17th for the second straight day, hit his golf bag with his driver in disgust, then nearly holed his 97-yard fourth shot and made par.

He salvaged his under-par round with a short birdie putt on the par-3 18th. He declined interviews afterward.

Langley is looking to become the third person to become a first-time PGA Tour winner by winning The Greenbrier in the tournament's six-year history.

So, too, is David Hearn, who was among those in the group at 8 under. The Canadian is still looking for his first PGA Tour win in his 164th event. His best finish was second at the 2013 John Deere Classic.

"This would be a great place for me to win one, but I've got 36 holes of golf (left)," Hearn said. "I'm playing great right now and I look forward to the weekend."

Hearn birdied six of his first eight holes and shot 64. He and Jonathan Byrd were tied for the lead on the back nine before late bogeys slowed their momentum. Byrd shot 69 and also was at 8 under.

Sixty-seven golfers made the cut at 2 under. Michael Putnam had an eagle and four birdies on the back nine to make the cut on the number.

Steve Stricker missed only his third cut since 2010.

Heavy rains stopped play

for 18 minutes in the morning. Occasional thunder-

storms are forecast through the weekend. □

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## 2 points from loss, Serena wins at Wimbledon; Venus next

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

**LONDON (AP)**—Twice, Serena Williams stood merely two points from a loss at Wimbledon against a British opponent buoyed by a roaring, flag-waving Centre Court crowd.

Twice, Williams was oh-so-close to the end of her bid for a fourth consecutive major title — and for the third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam.

And twice, pushed to the precipice, Williams regrouped, resisted and wound up winning, as she so often does.

Stomping her foot after misses, alternately screaming in delight or despair, even wagging her finger at fans who booed her, the No. 1-seeded Williams



Serena Williams of the United States returns a ball to Heather Watson of Britain, during their singles match, at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Friday July 3, 2015.

Associated Press

overcame a surprisingly 59th-ranked Heather Watson and emerged with a

6-2, 4-6, 7-5 victory in the third round Friday.

"I honestly didn't think I was going to win," said Williams, who trailed 3-0 and 5-4 in the final set. "How I pulled through, I really don't know."

Her 24th victory in a row at Grand Slam tournaments sets up a showdown Monday against another five-time Wimbledon champion, her older sister Venus. "We've been facing each other a long time," said the 16th-seeded Venus, who eliminated 82nd-ranked Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia 6-3, 6-2.

This will be the 26th all-Williams matchup, and first at a major since Serena beat Venus in the 2009 Wimbledon final.

"It's unfortunate that it's so soon," Serena said.

Other women's fourth-rounders Monday: 2004 champion Maria Sharapova vs. Zarina Diyas; Victoria Azarenka vs. Belinda Bencic; and French Open runner-up Lucie Safarova vs. CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S., who had never been this far at a major.

Men's matchups: defending champion Novak Djokovic vs. Kevin Anderson; French Open champion Stan Wawrinka vs. David Goffin; Richard Gasquet vs. Nick Kyrgios.

Denis Kudla, an American wild-card entry, reached the second week at a major for the first time and

awaits the winner of U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic against American John Isner, whose match was suspended because of darkness at 10-all in the fifth set. It harkened back to Isner's record 70-68 fifth-set victory spread over three days in 2010, but he and Cilic have a loooooong way to go to equal that marathon.

Nothing in that match, or any other Friday, offered up the tension and drama provided by Williams vs. Watson. Especially once Watson — playing steadily, if unspectacularly — appeared on the verge of a significant upset.

"She just did everything so well. I wasn't able to keep up. You know, sometimes you just don't have your day," said Williams, who lost in the third round at Wimbledon last year. "I thought maybe today just wasn't my day."

Sure looked that way when Watson took six straight games to go up two breaks in the third set. Then came an epic, 18-point game that began Williams' comeback. Watson twice was a point from leading 4-0, but she looked a bit tight, shanking a forehand about 5 feet long, then pushing a forehand wide to get broken.

Still, she broke Williams at love for a 5-4 edge, moving within a game of by far the biggest victory of her career.

At the ensuing change-over, Union Jacks of various sizes flapped in the swirling wind while chants of "Heather!" reverberated through the nearly century-old arena. When play resumed, yells came during points, and Williams complained to the chair umpire, drawing jeers.

"It was really intense today," Williams said. "I've never heard boos here."

At deuce, potentially two points from the end, Williams produced a forehand winner. Moments later, again at deuce, again two points from defeat, Williams conjured up another big forehand. □

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# AP Interview: Dwyane Wade chooses to stay with Heat

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — After 12 years with the Miami Heat, Dwyane Wade needed a reminder of how much the franchise valued him.

one of them. ... They got to show me how much they really wanted me to be here, how important it was for them that I continue to wear one jersey." Without those conversa-

than saying that they intend to enter into a contract with Wade once the NBA moratorium period ends. Wade cannot sign his new deal until next Thursday.

what I've been through in my life." He could have made \$16.1 million this season on the second year of a two-year deal, but opted out with hopes of getting a longer-term, more-lucrative contract. Wade considered other teams — the Los Angeles Lakers, in particular — but the lure of staying home

was ultimately too strong for the 33-year-old shooting guard. The 11-time All-Star averaged 21.5 points this past season, third-best among Eastern Conference players, and believes he remains one of the game's top threats when healthy. Goran Dragic committed to a five-year deal on Wednesday. □



In this Feb. 25, 2015, file photo, Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) goes to the basket past Orlando Magic's Victor Oladipo (5) during an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Once he found out, any chance of him leaving vanished.

Wade accepted a \$20 million, one-year deal on Thursday to stay with the Heat next season, ending his latest foray into free agency, and wrapping up a weeks-long saga that had him seriously wondering about leaving for the first time.

A pair of conversations, first with Heat CEO Nick Arison and then another with managing general partner Micky Arison, reminded Wade of what he meant to the team, and from there it was a matter of just making numbers work.

"Sitting down with Nick, sitting down with Micky, and having conversations with them that I've never had, that was big for me," Wade told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I've never had a business conversation with

tions, Wade said, "I don't think we would be at this point."

Per NBA rules, the Heat could not comment other

"A one-year deal for \$20 million, I could never look at that and roll my eyes," Wade said. "I am from Robbins, Illinois. Look at

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# Tour de France? More like Tour de-void of Americans

**DAVE SKRETTA**  
**AP Sports Writer**

As the Tour de France drew near, Jonathan Vaughters was still poring over power outputs and training results, trying to determine the nine riders that he would send to represent Cannondale-Garmin at the start line in the Dutch city of Utrecht. Andrew Talansky was a given, his best shot for an overall podium. But by the time Vaughters had finalized the rest of the U.S.-based team, Talansky was the only American on it.

One of just three in the entire 198-rider field.

The rest of the Cannondale-Garmin team starting Saturday come from Ireland, Canada, Slovakia, New Zealand, Australia, Lithuania and the Netherlands. And that raises an intriguing question: In the post-Lance Armstrong era of American cycling, is the fewest riders to start the Tour in nearly two decades a fluke or cause for concern?

"This is a little bit of a blip," acknowledged Bob Stapleton, who owned the highly successful U.S.-based HTC-Highroad and is now the chairman of USA Cycling's board of directors.

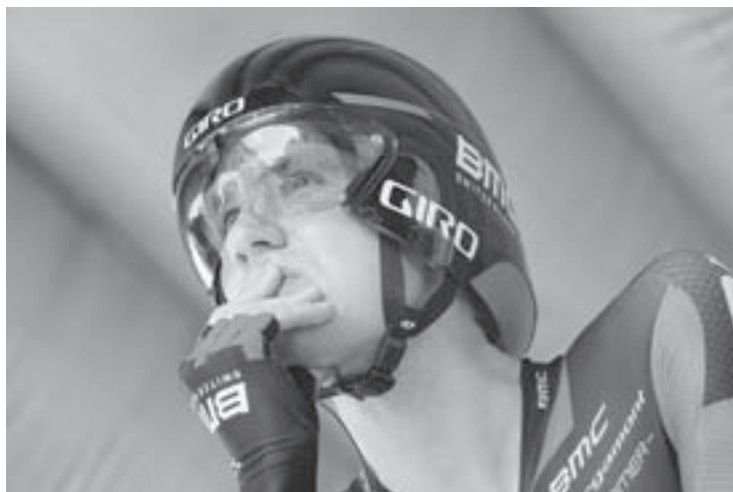
"I think there's kind of an ebb and flow," he said. "We have a huge bunch of juniors and U-23s coming forward that are going to be really good. But I do think our head count is down a bit."

The last time there were this few American riders in the Tour was 1996, when Armstrong was joined on a team by George Hincapie and Frankie Andreu. Since then, there have been years when as many as 10 riders from the U.S. were on the start line, and just last year nine began the three-week odyssey when the peloton rolled off from Leeds, England.

Only two are back: Talansky and Tejay van Garderen, another rider with overall ambitions. The third American is Tyler Farrar,



In this May 15, 2013, file photo, Tyler Farrar celebrates as he wins the fourth stage of the Tour of California cycling race in Santa Barbara, Calif. There will only be three Americans on the start line for the Tour de France on Saturday, July 4, 2015, the fewest in nearly two decades. Tejay Van Garderen, Andrew Talansky and Tyler Farrar.



In this July 26, 2014, file photo, Tejay van Garderen of the U.S. concentrates prior to the start of the 20th stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Bergerac, France.

a former Tour de France stage winner.

In fact, one of the three U.S.-based teams, Trek Factory Racing, is without an American rider at all after Matthew Busche was left off its roster.

"It's totally a blip," said former pro cyclist Todd Gogulski. "Teams are literally just this week announcing their teams, and that tells you how tough it is to make the selection."

There are plenty of reasons for the lack of stars-and-stripes flavor.

Injuries is perhaps the biggest.

Time trial specialist Taylor Phinney, part of the U.S.



In this June 15, 2014, file photo, Andrew Talansky, of the United States, celebrates on the podium after winning the 66th Dauphine cycling race, in Courchevel, France.

team at the London Olympics, has been out of racing since a devastating

crash in last year's national championships. His teammate at BMC Racing, Peter Stetina, endured a horrific crash of his own at the Vuelta al Pais Vasco when he collided with a metal pole at nearly 40 mph and broke numerous bones. Assuming both were healthy and fit, they would have had a good chance of making the team that will try to deliver van Garderen to the podium on the final day in Paris.

"It's a bummer I can't be

there with Tejay and the guys," Stetina said. "I know

they're saying it's one of the most mountainous tours, and I know that's where I could come in handy."

Another reason for the lack of Americans is a simple changing of the guard. The generation of Chris Horner, Danny Pate and Tom Danielson is nearing the end of its career, while a talented group of riders waiting in the wings is not quite ready for prime time.

So, guys like 23-year-old Lawson Craddock (Giant-Alpecin) and 24-year-olds Ian Boswell (Sky) and Joe Dombrowski (Cannondale-Garmin) were passed over in part for more experienced riders.

While that makes this year's Tour de France more like "Tour de-void of Americans" — not a good thing with the world championships returning to U.S. soil for the first time in 1986 this September — it is also a big reason why Vaughters and so many others are bullish about the future.

"You have a great crop of talent that, you know, haven't won a grand tour yet, haven't won the Tour de France yet, but are showing a lot of potential," Vaughters said. "I don't know if you have a Greg Lemond figure in the ranks right now, but we have a lot of depth."

What is lacking in quantity is at least partially made up for in quality.

Farrar is back to contending for sprint stages with South Africa-based MTN-Qhubeka, while Talansky and van Garderen are at their best in the mountains, where they hope to trump favorites Alberto Contador, Nairo Quintana, Chris Froome and Vincenzo Nibali for the podium.

"I'm in a really good place going into this Tour," van Garderen said. "I think I have a really good team. All the vibes I'm getting for this Tour are really good, I want to make the podium or go even higher. Anything is possible." □



# Solar plane lands in Hawaii after record-breaking flight

AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

KAPOLEI, Hawaii (AP) —

A plane powered by the sun's rays landed in Hawaii Friday after a record-breaking five-day journey across the Pacific Ocean from Japan.

Pilot Andre Borschberg and his single-seat aircraft landed at Kalaeloa, a small airport outside Honolulu. His nearly 118-hour voyage from Nagoya broke the record for the world's longest nonstop solo flight, his team said. The late U.S. adventurer Steve Fossett set the previous record of 76 hours when he flew a specially-designed jet around the globe in 2006.

But Borschberg flew the Solar Impulse 2 without fuel. Instead, its wings were equipped with 17,000 solar cells that powered propellers and charged batteries. The plane ran on stored energy at night.

The trans-Pacific leg was the riskiest of the plane's global travels as there was nowhere for it to land in an emergency.

The engineless aircraft landed in silence, the only sound the hum of a nearby helicopter. About 200 people, including the media, witnessed the touch-down



Ground crew push the Solar Impulse 2, a sun-powered airplane, towards the hangar after the plane landed at the Kalaeloa Airport, Friday, July 3, 2015, in Kapolei, Hawaii.

Associated Press

shortly before 6 a.m.

Later in the morning, Borschberg called the flight an extraordinary experience, saying it marked historical firsts for aviation and for renewable energy.

"Nobody now can say that renewable energies cannot do the impossible," he said. The most challenging part of the journey was when he and fellow Swiss co-pilot Bertrand Piccard

had to decide when exactly to leave Japan.

"You don't know if it's feasible. You don't know if it's possible. You don't know if you are going to lose the airplane," he said.

Borschberg, who did yoga up to 45 minutes daily to counter the effects of immobility and stay fit, remained in the plane for about an hour after landing before finally emerg-

ing. Before exiting, he was approached by customs personnel who asked to see his passport. Some in the waiting crowd waved Swiss flags, and dignitaries shook his hand. A troupe of young hula performers sang a welcoming song in Hawaiian.

The plane's ideal flight speed is about 28 mph though that can double during the day when sun's

rays are strongest. The carbon-fiber aircraft weighs over 5,000 pounds or about as much as a minivan or mid-sized truck.

Borschberg and Piccard have been taking turns flying the plane on an around-the-world trip since taking off from Abu Dhabi in March. After Hawaii, the plane will head to Phoenix and then New York. Piccard will make the flight to Phoenix, organizers said in a press release.

The project, which began in 2002 and is estimated to cost more than \$100 million, is meant to highlight the importance of renewable energy and the spirit of innovation. Solar-powered air travel is not yet commercially practical, however, given the slow travel time, weather and weight constraints of the aircraft.

The plane is visiting Hawaii just as the state has embarked on its own ambitious clean energy project. Gov. David Ige last month signed legislation directing Hawaii's utilities to generate 100 percent of their electricity from renewable energy resources by 2045. The utilities currently get 21 percent of their power from renewable sources. □

## 26 million Facebook users go rainbow for gay marriage ruling

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

More than 26 million Facebook profile photos have taken on a rainbow hue since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Friday that marriage is a right guaranteed under the Constitution regardless of a person's sexual orientation. People have been covering their profile photos with the Facebook-supplied overlay that uses the best-known symbol in the U.S. of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement.

Rainbow-tinted celebrities include Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Leon-

ardo DiCaprio and "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James.

While the people who've used the overlay is a fraction of Facebook's 1.4 billion users worldwide, the number is far bigger than the last mass profile photo change on the site. In 2013, some 3 million Facebook users changed their photos to show a pink-on-red equal sign in support of gay marriage.

Four years earlier, in what might have been the first large-scale profile-photo activism, Twitter users turned their photo green to support pro-democracy protesters in Iran.

Facebook said it is not us-

ing the filters for ad targeting, nor does it plan to do so.

Facebook said the fact that the rainbow filter appeared on the same day as the Supreme Court decision was not planned any more than the Supreme Court planned to issue its ruling the Friday.

The filter was created last week by two Facebook summer interns who said they wanted to help other employees "show their spirit" for gay pride parades in San Francisco, New York and elsewhere in recent days. The filter was popular among employees, so Facebook rolled it out to regular users. □



In this Feb. 15, 2015 file photo, actor Sean Hayes attends the SNL 40th Anniversary Special in New York. Hayes responded to the Supreme Court's ruling on Friday, June 26, that same-sex couples have a right to marry anywhere in the United States, by posting on Facebook, "What's better than a supreme taco from Taco Bell? The Supreme Court of the United States. Thank you for making marriage legal for EVERYONE today. Best birthday gift ever."

Associated Press



# World stocks drift lower ahead of Greek vote; China plunges



A man reacts as he looks at stock market prices at a brokerage house in Shanghai, China. World stock markets mostly drifted lower Friday ahead of Greece's weekend referendum, while China's main stock benchmark plunged as government efforts failed to reassure panicky investors. (Chinatopix via AP)

## The Associated Press

World stock markets mostly drifted lower Friday ahead of Greece's weekend referendum, while China's main stock benchmark plunged as government efforts failed

to reassure panicky investors. European stocks were mixed, with France's CAC 40 falling 0.6 percent to close at 4,808.22. Germany's DAX dropped 0.4 percent to 11,058.39. Britain's

FTSE 100 declined 0.7 percent to 6,585.78. U.S. markets were closed in observance of Independence Day. Investors are awaiting the outcome of a weekend referendum in Greece on

whether to accept more budget cuts in exchange for new bailout loans. The government says a "No" vote will put it in a better bargaining position for new terms, while European officials and the opposition say a rejection could lead to Greece's exit from the euro. Markets in Asia will get the first chance to react to the result of Sunday's vote.

A Chinese market rout deepened as investors dumped shares in spite of government measures this week aimed at restoring confidence, such as cutting fees and easing rules on borrowing money for trading. The China Securities Regulatory Commission, the market watchdog, said late Thursday that it's launching an investigation into suspected stock market manipulation, state media reported, an indication that the government is trying to halt the market slide.

"Policies take time to work their way through the sys-

tem before sentiments can be more permanently altered," Bernard Aw of IG Markets in Singapore wrote in a commentary. "For now, the mood is verging on panic."

The Shanghai Composite Index ended down 5.8 percent at 3,686.92. The index has plunged 29 percent since hitting a peak of 5,166.35 June 12. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.8 percent to close at 26,064.11, while Japan's Nikkei 225 edged up 0.1 percent to 20,539.79. South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.1 percent to 2,104.41 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 1.1 percent to 5,538.30.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.41 to \$55.52 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$1.75 to \$60.32 a barrel in London. The dollar fell to 122.78 yen from 123.09 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1100 from \$1.1083. □

# Aetna to buy Humana as health insurer landscape shifts

## TOM MURPHY

### Associated Press

Aetna aims to spend about \$35 billion to buy rival Humana and become the latest health insurer bulking up on government business as the industry adjusts to the federal health care overhaul.

The proposed cash-and-stock deal, announced early Friday, would make Aetna a sizeable player in the rapidly growing Medicare Advantage business, which offers privately run versions of the federally funded health care program for the elderly and some people with disabilities.

The combination also would bolster Aetna's presence in the state- and federally funded Medicaid program and Tricare coverage for military personnel and their families.

Health insurers are eager to do more business with government payers due in part to a Medicaid expan-

sion fostered by the health care overhaul and Medicare Advantage's surging enrollment. The overhaul is expanding Medicaid coverage in several states as it seeks to provide health coverage for millions of uninsured people.

Meanwhile, total enrollment in Medicare Advantage plans has tripled over the past decade to about 16.8 million people and is expected to keep growing as more baby boomers become eligible for the plans. Aetna's acquisition of Humana would make it the largest provider of Medicare Advantage coverage, with 4.4 million members, a figure that could change depending on regulatory review.

"Government markets are the most rapidly growing aspect of the system," said Dan Mendelson, CEO of the market research firm Avalere Health.

Hartford, Conn.-based Aetna announced its deal



A sign for Aetna Inc., sits atop a building at the company headquarters in in Hartford, Conn. Health insurer Aetna Inc. has made a deal to buy competitor Humana Inc. in a \$37 billion deal the companies say would create the second-largest managed care company, it was announced Friday, July 3, 2014. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill)

a day after the Medicaid coverage provider Centene Corp. said it would spend \$6.3 billion to buy fellow insurer Health Net. That deal would help Centene expand in the nation's biggest Medicaid market, California, and give it a Medicare presence in several western states.

In addition to these deals, the Blue Cross-Blue Shield carrier Anthem went public

late last month with an offer of more than \$47 billion for another insurer, Cigna. Health insurers see more advantages to these big combinations than a chance to build their government portfolios.

Major acquisitions can offer an infusion of new business at time when growth has slowed in the biggest part of their business, employer-sponsored health

coverage. Plus more employers are opting to pay their own insurance claims and hire insurers to administer the coverage. That's a less lucrative line of work for managed care companies.

Big deals also allow companies to quickly diversify their products and cover more territory. They also can yield savings when the companies combine back-office functions and cut overlapping jobs.

Both Aetna and Anthem also have cited the potential to improve their technology as a major reason behind their deals. Insurers are working to develop more apps and other tools that customers can use to shop for health care, since plans are exposing those customers to bigger medical bills through high deductibles and other insurance expenses. They also are using technology more to help monitor and improve patient care. □



## China reduces its planned IPOs for July after turmoil

**JOE McDONALD**  
AP Business Writer

**BEIJING (AP)** — China cut the number of initial public offerings planned this month by two-thirds on Friday, adding to frantic efforts to shore up plunging stock prices.

The move was a response to investor fears that a glut of new shares might outstrip demand and depress prices further. It followed another 5.7 percent decline in the country's main market index Friday.

Ten IPOs will be allowed in July, the China Securities Regulatory Commission said on its microblog account.

"Taking into account recent market conditions, the number will be reduced," the agency said. It gave no details of which companies would be allowed to list but said the amount of money raised also would be reduced from June's level.

Some 28 companies — an unusually large number for China — had planned to go public in the next two weeks, according to Hexun.com, a financial news website. The Shanghai Composite Index soared more than 150 percent starting in late 2014 and hit a peak on June 2 before falling almost 28 percent over the past two weeks. That has wiped out 17 trillion yuan (\$2.8 trillion) in market capitalization.

The government announced a surprise interest rate cut on June 27 to shore up investor confidence. As markets slid further this week, regulators reduced trading charges and eased controls on lending for share purchases.

A prolonged slump could disrupt Communist Party plans to use stock markets to make China's state-dominated economy more productive. The party wants state companies to raise money through stock sales to reduce debt and hopes they will compete harder if they answer to outside shareholders. □

## Let's make a deal!

# Mega-mergers drive mergers & acquisitions frenzy

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Deal makers from New York to London had a busy first half of the year, and mega-mergers drove the frenzy. Companies around the world announced mergers and acquisitions worth \$2.3 trillion, according to figures from data provider Dealogic, the second-best half-year total on record and the highest amount since 2007, when \$2.6 trillion of deals were announced.

The tie-ups included 31 deals worth \$10 billion or more, accounting for 39 percent of the total. That's the largest share since the second half of 1999, at the peak of the dot-com bubble.

The second half of the year is also off to a hot start, with a \$37 billion deal by Aetna Inc. to buy fellow insurer Humana Inc. announced early Friday.

The rush to merge has been driven by low borrowing costs and steady but unspectacular growth in the U.S. economy, which have sent CEOs hunting for new ways to expand sales and boost earnings. Companies from ketchup maker Heinz to oil producer Shell have joined the M&A throng this year.

"The mega-mergers, the big deals, have come back into favor," says Neil Dhar, U.S. capital markets leader at professional services firm PwC.



This photo shows a Charter Communications van in St. Louis. Charter Communications on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 announced it is buying Time Warner Cable for \$55.33 billion. Companies around the world announced mergers and acquisitions worth \$2.3 trillion, according to figures from data provider Dealogic, the second-best half-year total on record and the highest amount since 2007, when \$2.6 trillion of deals were announced.

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Of course, what's good for Wall Street isn't necessarily good for Main Street.

Mergers typically push up stock prices — at least for the company being acquired — and generate healthy fees for the investment banks and law firms that advise on the deals. But they can also mean layoffs and less consumer choice. And there is no guarantee that the deals will work out for investors in the long run.

None of that is slowing the pace of mammoth acquisitions.

Shell's \$82 billion purchase of gas company BG Group is the biggest deal announced so far this year.

The combination will boost Shell's oil and gas reserves by 25 percent and give it a bigger presence in the fast-growing liquefied natural gas market.

In the U.S., the biggest deal announced is Charter Communications' bid for Time Warner Cable, part of a broader consolidation among cable and media companies as technology and costs shake up the industries. The deal is valued at \$80 billion, including debt.

The burst of deals has come against a backdrop of ultra-low interest rates that have reduced the cost of financing transactions for acquirers. The Federal

Reserve has kept its benchmark interest rate close to zero for more than six years, making it easier for corporations to borrow cheaply in the bond market.

Even if the Fed increases rates later this year, as many economists expect, the enthusiasm for deals will remain, says Bill Wolfe, a senior vice president at Moody's Investors Service. "Even with an increase, rates are still going to be relatively low," Wolfe said. Another reason that deal-making is likely to stay robust is that modest economic growth in the U.S. continues to make it difficult for companies to boost profits on their own. □

## Whole Foods apologizes for pricing problems

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Whole Foods Market is apologizing to its shoppers for incorrect pricing, a week after a New York investigation found that the natural food grocer routinely overcharged for prepackaged fruits, vegetables and deli meats. "Straight up, we made some mistakes," said co-CEO Walter Robb, as he stood beside co-CEO John Mackey in a YouTube video posted earlier in the week. "We want to own that."

Robb and Mackey said that the pricing mistakes were unintentional and that the company will increase its training at stores around the country. Going forward, Whole Foods will give items away for free if customers discover they were overcharged. "We apologize to our customers for any discrepancies that may have occurred," the company said in blog post. Last week, New York's Department of Consumer Affairs

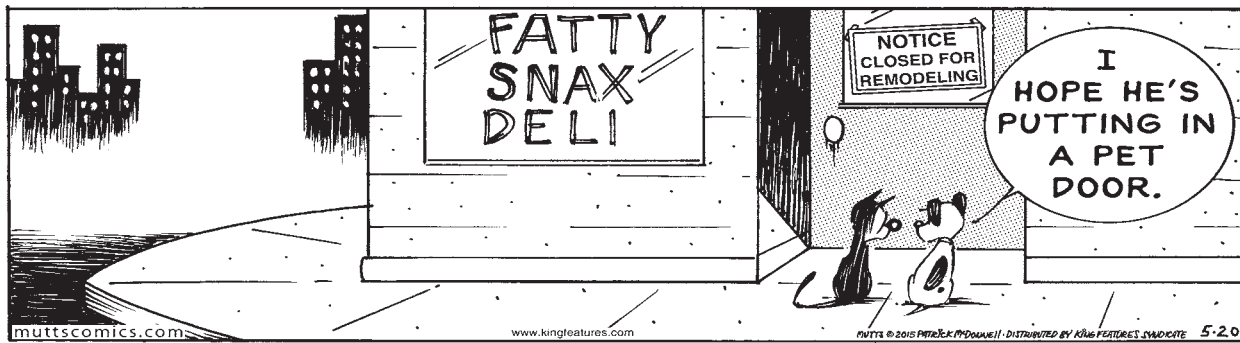
said it was expanding its investigation after finding that Whole Foods stores in the city regularly ripped customers off, including overcharging \$14.84 for a package of coconut shrimp and \$4.85 for eight chicken tenders. The department tested 80 types of prepackaged items and found all of them had mislabeled weights. The investigation focused on eight stores in the city.

In a statement, Commis-

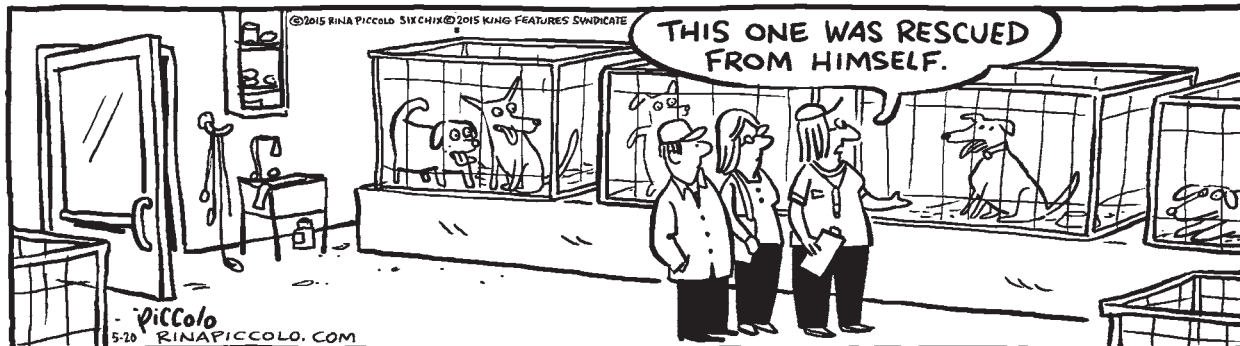
sioner Julie Menin said that the Department of Consumer Affairs was "gratified" that Whole Foods admitted to issues with its prepackaged food labels. In the YouTube video, Mackey said there was a "very small percentage" of weighing errors with items made in stores, including sandwiches, fresh juices and cut fruits. Based in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market Inc. operates 422 stores around the world. □



# Mutts



# 6 Chix



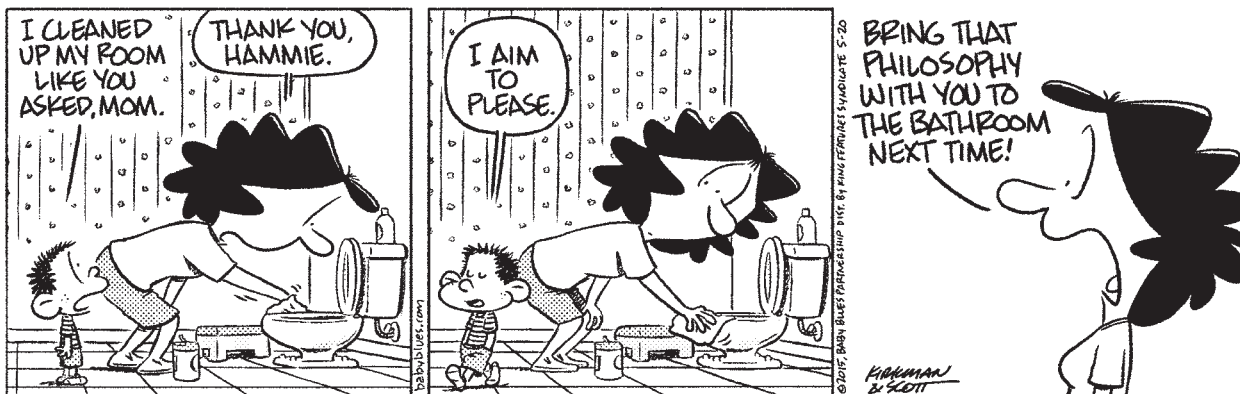
# Blondie



# Mother Goose & Grimm



# Baby Blues



# Zits



# Conceptis Sudoku

	8	6				4	9	
9			5		1			3
			4					1
			8					2
			2					6
		4					5	
	2					1		
4					7			
7	1	5	9		4	2	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	5	2	4	6	7	9	8	1
6	7	8	2	9	1	5	3	4
1	9	4	3	8	5	6	2	7
7	8	1	6	3	2	4	5	9
4	3	9	5	1	8	2	7	6
2	6	5	9	7	4	3	1	8
8	2	6	1	4	3	7	9	5
9	1	3	7	5	6	8	4	2
5	4	7	8	2	9	1	6	3

# ACROSS

- As \_\_\_ as a tack
- Dick and Jane's dog
- Alerts for cops: abbr.
- Smarter
- Comic actress Imogene \_\_\_
- Calcutta robe
- Old saying
- Word with fine or liberal
- Close-fitting
- Truly sorry
- Oration
- Home of twigs
- Childhood viral infection
- Responses to corny jokes
- Voting place
- Very long time
- Evans and Robertson
- \_\_\_ T; early Ford
- Flying insect
- Rustic sort
- \_\_\_ about; tout
- Bar seat
- Amounts to be swallowed
- Light brown
- Windowsill, e.g.
- \_\_\_ to; affirm the truth of
- Afternoon show
- Stench
- Chairman's schedule
- In \_\_\_; uncertain of the outcome
- Lois \_\_\_; Clark Kent's love
- Weather word
- Small flies
- Even scores
- Powder, for short
- Misbehave
- Colony insects
- Abhor
- Insincere

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24								25				
26	27	28					29					
30				31		32			33	34	35	36
37			38		39			40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
47								49		50		
51	52	53						54				
55								56			57	58
59												
60								61	62		63	
64								65			66	
67								68			69	

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/20/15

# Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

4	Capital of Saskatchewan	AMASS	ASAN
5	Make believe	DOOM	TIBIA
6	Meager	DOVE	INEPT
7	Harbor town	STERILE	PIANIST
8	Fall month: abbr.	GOT	MENDS
9	Graduation cap feature	ADIEU	POD
10	Home price evaluator	FIND	FANT
11	___ discussion; seminar	TAT	ALLSTAR
12	Willis or Lee	ENERGY	TEE
13	Exhales audibly	RARER	HEN
21	School writing assignment	PETER	MAE
23	Hand part	SURREAL	BIGSHOT
25	Grandma ___; American artist	TREE	XEROX
26	Jewels	USES	INANE
27	Cheer	DADS	SANER
28	Hold ___; keep		YENS
29	Tea variety		
32	Get stuck		
34	Go out with		
35	Gabor & others		
36	Period before Easter		
38	Sanctity		

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5/20/15

- Goes first
- Give for a time
- \_\_\_ measure; temporary solution
- Scarcity
- Narrow ditch near Sicily
- Once more
- Religious belief
- 1/16 of a pound
- Sandy residue
- Intl. alliance
- Shock
- Catch sight of
- Org. for drivers



# Greek

Continued from Page 11

The town, topped by the dramatic remains of a 13th Century castle, has played an important role in Greek history, with its residents among the first to rise up during the war for independence from the Ottoman Empire that began in 1821. Its distinctive Byzantine churches and stone-wrought homes — and the magnificent view of the mountains, rivers and valleys — won it a place on the back of the 5,000 drachma bill before the Greek currency was phased out when the euro was introduced in 2002.

Some have high hopes of a return to the drachma if Greece abandons the euro.

Divisions in the village over whether to be in or out of the eurozone are so pronounced that those who back the bailout proposal sit at one table at a village café while those opposed sit at another, a gulf of empty tables separating them. Anxiety is in the pine-scented mountain air. No one seems confident the banks will re-open anytime soon despite government assurances that their pensions and savings are secure. It is a vital issue because one retiree's monthly pension commonly supports several generations, since so many adults cannot find work. Some have decided to get by on what they have at home rather than spend a chunky amount to venture to Megalopoli, 17 kilometers (10 miles) away, to try to get more cash from the bank. □



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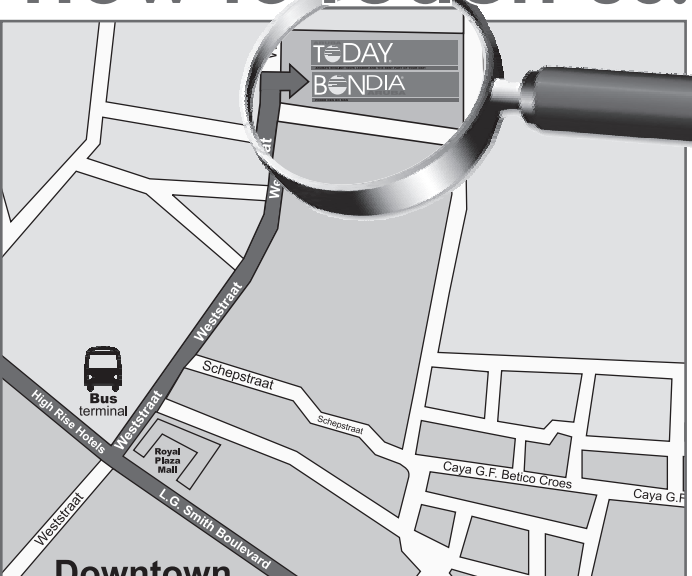
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3 BEDRM OV \$17k

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30/31	524	\$3.500 each
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
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SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	911

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TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
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## Too hot: Temperatures messing with sex of Australian lizards

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Hotter temperatures are messing with the gender of Australia's bearded dragon lizards, a new study finds.

Dragons that are genetically male hatch as females and give birth to other lizards. And the way the lizards' gender is determined is getting changed so much that the female sex chromosome may eventually disappear entirely, say the authors of the study made in Australia.

"This is the first time we have proved that sex reversal happens in the wild in any reptile at all," said Clare Holleley of the University of Canberra, lead author of the study in the journal *Nature* Wednesday. The study, she said, "is showing that climate extremes can very rapidly fundamentally alter the biology of an organism." To understand what's happening, it helps to have a quick lesson in the birds and the bees — and the bearded dragons and other reptiles. Some reptiles, like alligators and some turtles, have their genders determined not by sex chromosomes, like humans and other mammals, but by temperature during incubation.

Until now, bearded dragons had their gender based on chromosomes. Like birds, their sex chromosomes are Z and W instead of X and Y. Males are ZZ. Females are ZW. In humans, everyone has an X and the presence of Y makes a person genetically male. In bearded dragons, everyone has a Z and the presence of a W makes them a genetic female.

In the past, scientists have shown in the lab that hot temperatures can switch that natural chromosome-

based gender.

Holleley and colleagues examined the genetic sex markers of 131 wild-caught bearded dragons in Queensland province in northeastern Australia and found that 11 of them were female outwardly — even having offspring — but had the ZZ chromosomes of a genetic male. Their sex determination was "switched into overdrive," Holleley said.

Holleley concedes 11 dragons is a small sample size, so she and colleagues will continue and expand their research.

The genetic-male-into-female dragons not only laid eggs, but in a way were better mothers than genetically determined females, laying more eggs, said study co-author Arthur Georges, chief scientist for the Institute for Applied Ecology at the University of Canberra.

The team also found that the offspring of these dragons no longer have their gender determined by chromosomes, but by temperature.

This is happening in an area that is one of the fastest warming places in Australia over the past 40 years, Holleley said. Lab tests show that the switch from genetic sex determination to temperature sex determination seems to start at about 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius) and occurs 100 percent of the time at about 97 degrees (36 degrees Celsius), Holleley said.

Outside scientist Frederic Janzen at Iowa State University praised the work as thorough and convincing. He said in an email that the study can help "to better understand these remarkable animals in a rapidly changing world." □



This handout photo provided by Arthur Georges, University of Canberra, Australia, taken in Oct. 2014, in Eulo, Queensland, Australia, shows a bearded dragon lizard.

Associated Press

## It's the pits: Comet appears to have sinkholes, study says

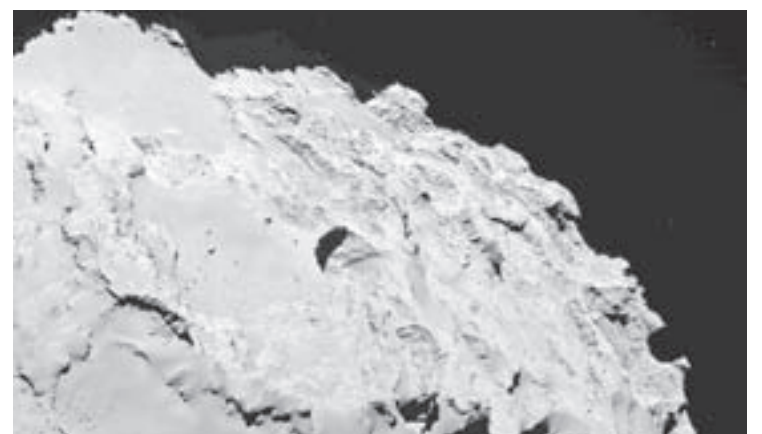
**MALCOLM RITTER**

AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Comets are basically dirty snowballs, but it turns out they can have a very Earth-like feature: sinkholes.

That's what scientists think after analyzing data from a comet observed by the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft. The researchers suggest that 18 large holes on its surface are sinkholes, created by the collapse of its surface into a porous interior.

Some pits are hundreds of yards deep, which gives glimpses of the comet's interior. In some cases, the pits were seen spewing jets of gas and dust, as the



This Dec. 21, 2014 photo made by the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft and provided by researchers led by Jean-Baptiste Vincent shows the most active pit, known as Seth\_01, which scientists believe is one of several sinkholes on the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

Associated Press

sun's warmth turned the ice inside them into a gaseous form.

Other comets have pits too, but they don't look like the apparent sinkholes

on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

The new observations and analysis were released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*. □



# HGTV relies on relationships for good TV



In this June 4, 2015 file photo, Jonathan Scott, left, and Drew Scott, hosts of HGTV's "Brother vs Brother," attend a screening of "Dukale's Dream" in New York.

Associated Press

## LUQMAN ADENIYI

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — HGTV is working the buddy system. The home-and-garden network has upped the number of shows with co-hosts who are related or married to five, adding "America's Most Desperate Kitchens," hosted by cousins Anthony Carrino and John Colaneri, to its lineup of shows hosted by spouses, siblings and other assorted relatives. Keeping it all in the family is deliberate: "The natural conversation and exchanges between them as experts with a pre-existing relationship engages audiences," said HGTV general manager Allison Page.

The lifestyle network's top show "Brother vs Brother," starring brothers Drew and Jonathan Scott fixing houses for resale, averaged 2.5 million viewers this season — a 47 percent increase over last year's viewership, according to Nielsen ratings.

Carrino and Colaneri are back with their fourth HGTV show this summer. In their newest offering, the duo renovates kitchens in homes across the country. Colaneri said they enjoy being able to portray their

relationship exactly as it is without any amped-up drama.

"We are first cousins, best friends and we are almost like brothers," Colaneri said.

Their first HGTV gig hosting "Kitchen Cousins" came out of the blue: They got the surprise call from the network 10 months after a friend sent in a video she made of them.

"I don't think for one second we ever thought this is something we can do," Carrino said.

Page said the network's audience is mostly women, but they have worked to expand it. Since hosting on HGTV, Carrino said, "Big burly union electrical workers" have come up to him saying, "Can I get a picture? I love your show." Page said the two-host system helps diversify the demographic of the audience, especially when each of the hosts has a different expertise. She said "the shows that focus on physical construction and decoration appeal to both" men and women.

"Our fans stretch from young children to adults," Colaneri said. "There is always someone who comes up to you that you would never expect" □

# Leonard Nimoy's son makes Spock documentary to honor father



In this June 29, 2015 photo, lawyer-turned-director Adam Nimoy, son of the late Star Trek actor Leonard Nimoy, poses for a portrait in New York to promote his documentary about his father, "For the Love of Spock."

Associated Press

## LUQMAN ADENIYI

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Adam Nimoy has found a way to spend countless hours with his late father Leonard Nimoy: He's creating a documentary for the actor who played Spock on "Star Trek."

Nimoy said the "Spockumentary" funded through a Kickstarter campaign that raised over \$600,000 will focus on the pop icon and his legacy. The TV director and film professor said it would explore his father's life onscreen and off-screen.

"For the Love of Spock" began as a project for the father and son duo before Leonard's Nimoy's death in February at age 83. Nimoy said his father wanted to keep it Spock-centric, but once he passed he knew he had to include more about his father.

"I think it's going to be a nice kind of way just to work through all these feelings I am having and to move on with my own life," Nimoy said.

Nimoy turned to crowdfunding because he was not getting the financial

support he expected from studios. The documentary will include clips from the "Star Trek" films and TV shows, Nimoy's other works and interviews from fans and family as well as William Shatner who played Capt. James T. Kirk; J.J. Abrams who directed the 2009 film reboot, and celebrity fans like Seth McFarlane. Zachary Quinto, who plays Spock in the new movie franchise, will narrate the film.

"Dad passed the torch to Zachary. He is the anointed one to carry on the tradition of Mr. Spock and all that entails," Nimoy said. "He's now such a part of the tradition that it just seems like he would be a major force to really come up with a dynamic product."

This will be Nimoy's second project with his dad: He previously produced "Leonard Nimoy's Boston," a documentary about his father's childhood in Boston. His sister Julie Nimoy announced in April she was partnering with her fiancé to create a film on COPD, the disease that killed her father.

Nimoy said when he was

growing up, his father took on traits of his character and was distant and worked a lot.

"He often said early on in life he ... majored in career and minored in family," Nimoy said.

Nimoy said his father's alcoholism and his own substance-abuse strained their relationship.

"(We had to) work on our own issues before we were able to rebound together and have the loving relationship we had the last five years of our lives," he said.

With this film he hopes he can tie in everything he loves about his father, their lives together and the character he played.

"It's my gift to my Dad, it's my gift to Mr. Spock who I love and adore, it's my gift to the fans who have supported us all these years," Nimoy said. "It's a gift really to myself to say something definitive about an incredibly interesting character who has inspired millions of people."

"For the Love of Spock" is expected to be released in time for the 50th anniversary of the "Star Trek" series in 2016. □



## 'Inside Out' celebrates edge over 'Magic Mike,' 'Terminator'

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Even with the flashy competition of Terminators and male strippers, the little feelings inside a young girl's head proved to be more of a draw for moviegoers going into the holiday weekend. Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out" earned a chart-topping \$7.7 million on Thursday, according to Rentrak estimates. The animated family film has grossed \$216.1 million to date and could become the first film since "Argo" to climb to No. 1 during its third weekend in release.

"Inside Out" had been trailing the gargantuan grosses of "Jurassic World" for two weeks, but might have the edge finally. Universal's record-busting dino film brought in \$6.9 million Thursday, bringing its domestic total to \$527.2 million.

New openers "Terminator Genisys" and "Magic Mike XXL" held the third and fourth spots, respectively with \$6.5 million and

\$5.7 million.

But, this narrow advantage doesn't mean much for "Terminator's" bottom line, which looks destined for disappointment.

The Skydance-Paramount movie was produced for an estimated \$155 million. The "Magic Mike" sequel, meanwhile, only cost around \$15 million.

With daily grosses this close, the long holiday weekend is still anyone's game.

While no film will be reaching the \$80 million-plus heights of 2013's "Despicable Me 2," 2004's "Spider-Man 2" or 2011's "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," this weekend is solid improvement over last year's disastrous Fourth of July weekend.

The 2014 Independence Day box office was the weakest in decades thanks in part to lackluster options, like "Tammy," and "Earth to Echo," bad weather and the competition of the World Cup. □



In this file image released by Disney-Pixar, characters, from left, Anger, voiced by Lewis Black, Disgust, voiced by Mindy Kaling, Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, Fear, voiced by Bill Hader, and Sadness, voiced by Phyllis Smith appear in a scene from "Inside Out."

Associated Press

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"**



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

### Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



## Who's John Jay? Scholars urge new look at forgotten founder

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

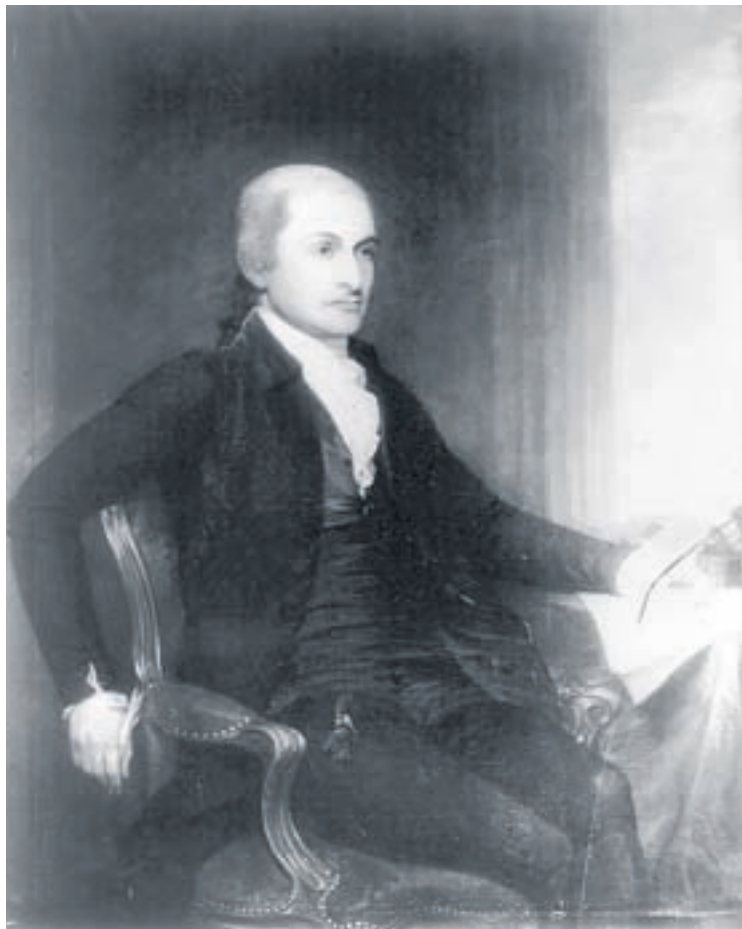
**KATONAH, N.Y. (AP)** — The inner circle of founders has been set for as long as anyone can remember — Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton and Madison.

Almost never mentioned is John Jay.

"Most people know something about him. ... But very few know the full breadth of his accomplishments. Most are very surprised by what they learn," explains Heather Iannucci, director of the John Jay Homestead in this Hudson River town, where the July Fourth celebration will include a reading of the Declaration of Independence, music and tours of the stately, shingled house where the country's first chief justice lived his final years.

As more of his papers have become available in the past decade, Jay's admirers, ranging from specialists to such popular historians as Joseph Ellis and Walter Isaacson, have been arguing that a founder they believe underrated deserves a closer look — for achievements that extend to virtually every branch of government, on the state, federal and international level. Jay was one of three contributors to the *Federalist Papers*, which helped define American government. He was president of the wartime Continental Congress, then served as secretary of foreign affairs, precursor to secretary of state, after the Revolutionary War ended. He was an essential diplomat whose peace negotiations with England, leading to the Treaty of Paris, vastly expanded U.S. territory.

For his accomplishments heading a network of informants during the revolution, actions that helped inspire James Fenimore Cooper's novel "The Spy," the CIA's website calls Jay "the first national-level American counterintelligence chief." He also helped write the New York Constitution, was a founder of the New York Manumission Society and as governor signed



legislation that phased out slavery in the state. (Jay himself owned slaves.)

The founders bickered colorfully among themselves,

him that when he was forming his original Cabinet, he offered the first position — any position — to Jay, who chose the Supreme Court.

most important founders until the cows come home, but it's clear he should be part of the list."

Jay was a leading nationalist, eager to unify the former colonies, but he has become a regional hero. The John Jay College of Criminal Justice is based in Manhattan. Some students at his alma mater, Columbia University (then King's College), live in John Jay Hall, and various prizes are handed out by Columbia at the annual John Jay Awards dinner. Some visitors to the homestead arrive from the nearby John Jay High School.

But recognition doesn't approach that of Washington and other peers. Few Jay biographies have been published, and none close to the prominence of Ron Chernow's *Hamilton* and Washington books or David McCullough's "John Adams." The Library of America has issued editions of the writings of several founders but has no plans for a

lisher, for a book about a major founding American father," Stahr wryly observed.

Ellis acknowledged his own slighting of Jay. In his Pulitzer-winning "Founding Brothers," a million-seller published in 2000, Ellis does not include Jay among the eight "most prominent political leaders in the early republic," an omission Stahr points out in his biography. "If I knew what I know now when I wrote 'Founding Brothers,' Jay would have been one of the players," Ellis now says.

Jay supporters believe his relative anonymity is mostly a story of paperwork and personality. The balding, gray-eyed Jay lived quietly and died quietly, not on a battlefield or in a duel with Aaron Burr, but in his library, at age 83.

He was not a humorist like Franklin, or intemperate like Hamilton, but dependable and unusually honorable. Historian Gordon Wood pointed out that when Jay was New York's governor, he refused to endorse Hamilton's scheme in 1800 to manipulate the state's electoral laws during a close presidential campaign and deny the White House to Jefferson, their political rival. That was Jay's "finest moment," Wood told The Associated Press in an email.

In Stacy Schiff's biography of Franklin in Paris, "The Great Improvisation," she noted that Jay never tried to compete with or undermine Franklin while both were diplomats abroad and was willing to endure financial and physical hardship on behalf of independence. That included spending "30 murderous months on the periphery of the Spanish court," waiting in vain for \$5 million in promised aid, Schiff wrote in an email. Jay, she said, "never seems to lose his cool, or his dignity." The scarcity of documents has plagued Jay historians. Over the past 60 years, the papers of Washington, Jefferson and others have been duly compiled and made widely available. □



This undated painting made available by the Library of Congress shows John Jay (1745-1829).

Associated Press

but they agreed on the virtues of Jay. Noting his centrality in the talks with England, John Adams praised him as "of more importance than any of the rest of us." Alexander Hamilton turned to Jay first when conceiving the *Federalist Papers*, and George Washington thought so much of

"He's been hiding in plain sight for all this time," says Ellis, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian who features Jay in his current best-seller, "The Quartet," in which he places Jay among four founders who made the U.S. Constitution possible. "We can argue about who can be on top of the list of

dedicated book on Jay. In 2005, Walter Stahr's "John Jay: Founding Father" received praise from Chernow and Isaacson among others, but he struggled to find a publisher and ended up with the London-based Hambledon Continuum. "I signed with a British pub-



# Independence Day? To some, July 4 is Barbecued Spareribs Day

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — To most Americans, July 4 is Independence Day. But on Marlo Anderson's calendar, it's also Caesar Salad Day and Barbecued Spareribs Day. Anderson is the mastermind of the National Day Calendar, an online compendium of pseudo-holidays that has become a resource for TV and radio stations looking to add a little levity to their broadcasts, among others.

The 52-year-old co-owner

to promote themselves, though they question the effectiveness some of the resulting campaigns. It's not the only reason for celebration, but food seems to be a common subject for special days.

Already, the National Day Calendar says it has given its blessing to more than 30 made-up holidays. A crouton maker paid for National Crouton Day (May 13), a seafood restaurant submitted National Fried Clam Day (July 3) and a craft beer maker came up with

authority of those holidays is limited; although they're broadly observed, they're technically only legally applicable to federal employees.

A few dozen other dates are also recognized in the U.S. code, including Mother's Day, National School Lunch Week and American Heart Month. Mayors, presidents and other lawmakers can declare days honoring individuals and causes too, although those usually aren't widely observed.

Beyond that, there's no sin-

Boston Market's chief brand officer, Sara Bittorf, said the idea for National Rotisserie Chicken Day (June 2) came from the chain's ad agency, but noted the day was one of few approved by the National Day Calendar's selection committee. Since the National Day Calendar doesn't have its own staff, that selection committee is made up of four Zoovio employees.

Amy LaVallie, a committee member, said the general rule is to pick days with broad appeal. It's why "Na-

ing a sucker born every minute."

While special days give companies another way to promote a product, Passikoff said their effectiveness would depend largely on whether there's a natural interest in the category. He said National Donut Day (the first Friday in June) gets a lot of attention because the pastries are popular and the day has interesting origins; the Salvation Army says it began during World War I when its workers gave soldiers coffee and doughnuts in the trenches.

As for a day celebrating rotisserie chicken, Passikoff questioned whether anyone would really care.

While the National Day Calendar is a quick way for companies to get recognition for a special date, it isn't the only keeper of notable days.

In 1957, brothers William and Harrison Chase started Chase's Calendar of Events as a reference for the media. The first edition was 32 pages, but the book has since mushroomed to 752 pages and includes federal holidays and events like musical festivals, as well as days celebrating things like squirrels, pooper scoopers and s'mores.

It costs \$80 and is used by places like libraries and media outlets.

Holly McGuire, editor-in-chief of Chase's, said she and her team try to gauge whether people actually "observe" particular dates when deciding what should be included in the book.

"Really, in the last 10 or 20 years, people have just been throwing them out there. They may take or not. We try to bring a little order to the chaos," McGuire said.

For instance, McGuire said Chase's doesn't list a day for chocolate since there are about three floating about and she can't figure out how they came to be. Yet the book lists a "Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night," which is intended to relieve people of squash from "overzealous planting." □



Zoovio co-owner Marlo Anderson, center, and some of the National Day Calendar review committee, including, from left, Zoovio employees Amy LaVallie, Alice Anderson, and Nicholas Ressler, pose for a photo with a bowl of popcorn at the Mandan, N.D. business. Anderson says he started an online compendium of special days in 2013 called National Day Calendar after his love of popcorn piqued his curiosity about National Popcorn Day (Jan. 19).

(AP Photo/Will Kincaid)

of a VHS digitizing company in North Dakota started the calendar in 2013 and soon realized the site could also be a way for people to declare their own special days. So last year, he started charging \$1,500 to \$4,000 for "national day" proclamations.

"People certainly don't need to use us. It's just we really give it a jumpstart," he said.

Marketing experts give Anderson credit for seizing on the desire by companies and groups for another way

National Refreshment Day (fourth Thursday in July). Anderson's venture, which he says brings in roughly \$50,000 a year, underscores the free-for-all nature of such days.

In 1870, Congress established the first four federal holidays with New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Since then, only six more annual federal holidays have been added, with the most recent being Martin Luther King Jr. day in 1983. But even the

gle authority for declaring the legitimacy of special days, which can become part of culture in myriad ways, including marketing campaigns, advocacy efforts and folklore.

The often murky origins present an opportunity for the National Day Calendar, which has emerged to bestow an air of authority on special days. For a price, the site mails official-looking proclamations that Anderson prints out and frames at Zoovio, his VHS digitizing business.

tional Sean Connery Day" was rejected, she said, but Boston Market's submission passed muster.

"National Rotisserie Chicken Day, okay? People like chicken. Simple as that," LaVallie said.

Still, some question the validity of Anderson's calendar declarations.

"It seems like hokum to me, but more power to him," said Robert Passikoff, president of Key Brands, a consulting firm. "Ask him if they have a P.T. Barnum day, and see if they're celebrat-